

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: GLORIA FELIX, retired factory worker/cook/housewife

Gloria (Pacheco) Felix, Portuguese, one of four children, was born October 10, 1911 in Hilo. Her mother was also born in Hilo. Her father came from the Azores in 1906 at the age of 18 as a stowaway.

When she was two years old, Gloria moved to Kakaako with her parents. She attended Pohukaina Elementary School and McKinley High School for one year. She helped her father make Portuguese sausage and participated regularly in Kakaako Holy Ghost Festival activities.

She married Mariano Felix at the age of 16. They are parents of three daughters. She held a variety of jobs including work in a potato chip and candy factory, babysitting, and as a cook. She currently helps out at the Maryknoll Sisters' Convent. She is active in several Portuguese cultural organizations.

TIME LINE

1911	birth: Hilo, Hawaii
1913	moved to Kakaako
1927	married Mariano Felix
1937	joined Pioneer Civic Organization
1960	moved to Pauoa

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: MARIANO FELIX, retired laundry worker

Mariano Felix, Portuguese, was born June 2, 1906 in the Azores. He came to Hawaii with his parents as an infant. He lived in various communities on Oahu including Kakaako where he attended Muriel Kindergarten and Pohukaina Elementary School through the third grade.

He lived also on Kauai and Maui, worked on a plantation in Lahaina at the age of 9 as a waterboy. He was a mill fireman by the time he was 15 and later worked in the chemist's department and as a machine shop welder. He returned to Kakaako at the age of 19 and went to work for Young Laundry. He retired after 40 years of service with the laundry.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix currently live in Pauoa.

TIME LINE

1906	birth: Azores
1910	waterboy, Maui plantation
1925	moved to Kakaako, worked for Young Laundry
1960	moved to Pauoa
1965	retired

Tape No. 3-5-1-77

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Gloria Felix (GF)

September 7, 1977

Honolulu, Hawaii

BY: Gael Gouveia (GG)

GG: This is an interview with Gloria Felix in her home on September 7th, 1977. Okay, we're on...why don't you tell me again about your father and how he came from Portugal, from the Azores.

GF: You mean where he...

GG: Stowed away. That's what you said.

GF: Stowed away. (Laughs) Oh, yeah. Well, when he was 18 years old, he came...every boy 18 years, regardless of what you got, you have to serve the army, you know, for about five years. It's just like Russia in Portugal, the soldiers. So he said that he wasn't going to serve in the army in Portugal. He said he was just going to get out. So that's when they found this boat load was coming to the Terra Nova. That's the new land. So all of the boys went down to the wharf and see the boat off. And he wanted to go in the worst way, but his family wasn't coming over. And he knew quite a few families that were coming. So that's when he said, "Well, I'm going in that boat and if I don't come out, you let my family know." So they went and tell my grandma and she just cried her heart out when he left. But then he kept in touch with them. He wrote because my father was a very intelligent man. He could read and write Portuguese and yet he could read and write English and never went to a English school.

GG: How did he learn?

GF: By himself. He learn through the Portuguese language, I guess. And in Portugal, what's the eighth grade here, it's the fourth grade there, you see. So they more advanced there than we are here in America. So he could read. He could read most anything. He used to correspond all the time, write back and forth to his mother. So when he got to the Big Island, well, he worked in the plantation there. One of these aunts was living there in Hilo and then he was staying with her, and he worked in the plantation and then my mother was a very jolly woman. And everybody loved my father because he was so good looking and he came from the old country, and he had nice rosy cheeks. And all the girls were saying that nobody could get him because he was so good looking. He was too conceited and anything else. But my mother said, "Well, I'll show you girls that I can get that man."

(Laughter)

GF: And she did. And not loving him enough to marry. But then she married him. But then she said my father was a very lazy man.

(Laughter)

GF: She said that wasn't his line of work, working in a plantation.

GG: But he didn't come to work in the plantation originally?

GF: No, no. No, no.

GG: He just got on the ship and stowed away?

GF: Just got on the ship and stowed away. And then he was about three days out when they found him. And then he had to work his way. They make him do some kind of odd jobs on the boat. And they took three months. Coming on the boat, they left there on September. They got here in December. That long to (come by ship).

GG: Do you remember the year?

GF: 1906. Yeah. That's when my father---my husband came on the same little boat he came. My husband was three months old.

(Mariano Felix = MF)

MF: Three months. I was three months. And then when I got here was---six months.

GF: Yeah, well, something like that anyway. Well anyway, they got here in December, just before Christmas. That wasn't his line of work in the plantations. He never wanted to work, my mother said. He didn't care too much (for the work). My mother went out and help him work (in the fields). Then she had two children. And then she came to (Honolulu). (They) wanted to come to Honolulu to see if he could get another job, something that he wanted. And he'd like something to do with boats. My father was a boat builder. So he went to work for the Inter-Island Navigation Company. It's up there on Pier Two. So he worked there for quite a few years. (He worked for the county. He was building inspector of all the schools for two years. Then he went into his own contracting business for a few years. Then he applied for Navy Yard [about 1928] and worked there until he retired about 1950). They did away with the Inter-Island drydock. He was working for the Navy Yard. And he didn't come home for three days. My mother didn't see him when the war started. He didn't come home for few days.

But then he retired. And before he retired, he was talking about running his own business. Because my father's family, back in the old country, they made sausages, you see. But it was so funny because when I met-- we went to Boston about three years ago because my father's family, his brother---we just thought was only one brother, so we went to see him (but he had two sisters also there). My older sister had to find out

where's (the family in Boston and she did). She found out that one uncle was staying in Massachusetts, in Rhode Island or Fall River anyway. And he doesn't recall at all making sausages. He's the baby of the family. So I guess he never remembered. I mean, it wasn't at his time or they must have gave up, but he don't remember. He don't know how my father got to make sausages---but my father always said that their family made it, that's how he got to learn how to make the sausage. From back home. They made the sausage. So he said he wanted to try it. So he did. And it was a successful business. Then he retired from Navy Yard and he took full time work, anyway. So I used to go and help him and he had some lady friends--my mother had some lady friends used to come over and help him. He had some steady customers. He never had enough sausages for people.

GG: Did he do his business from home or did he have a...

GF: Well, he had a little house in the back of his home. We used to call it the sausage house. Well, that's where he had all his machinery all there in the back. The Board of Health, they used to come over. You know, you have to have those things checked out. So they used to come over every so often and check it out. And we worked there. Then finally he was getting old and just couldn't take it. We try to boost him along and said, "Oh, you can. You can." And poor thing, sometimes he was hard breathing, because he had a heart condition.

I had one sister--you see my father owned the house. My younger sister lived with him all the time. Then she moved to the Mainland, and she took all her children with her. Now it broke my father's heart and my mother, to have all the kids just leave, just up and leave. It was so hard on me, because I was closer to my mother and my father than the rest of them because I used to go there all the time and help make the sausages. I helped them. My father thought the world of my husband, too, because he never mind me going there everytime, early in the morning before I go to work. And after work, I'd go there and I help him again.

GG: How did you help? What was your job?

GF: My job was cutting up the pork and filling up the pork sausages. Filling up the sausage on the casing. And my father was the one that smoked it in the back. I would go and help him cut. It was quite a few hundred pounds of meat that had to be cut.

GG: Where did you get the pork from?

GF: He went to buy from Armour and Company or Swift and Company. He used to buy it by the wholesale. Or C.Q. Yee Hop. He used to buy it from there in a case.

GG: And did he kill it or the pig was already ready for you?

GF: No, no, it's all come in Boston butts. It was all the C.T. butts. All in chunk butts.

GG: And then you cut it up? Tell me about the process, 'cause I don't know.

GF: We would cut it. He would thaw it out the night before and then we would cut it all up in pieces, little chunks about an inch square. And then we used to leave it and let it drain off again. You be surprised the lot of blood that comes out. He don't want that blood to get in when he mixed it up with the spices, see. So he used to let it drain for another half day. And then he would put the ingredients, vinho e alhos. like how the Portuguese say. You put 'em in vinho e alhos. That's vinegar and salt and allspice and a lot of garlic. And you just let that pork just marinate overnight. And early the next morning, we go there and then we would put in the casing---he had a machine that...no, we used to put it in the casing ourself. Then he finally got a machine. And then he would feed this machine. And then we would tie it as he went along, and fill up the casing.

GG: Where did you get the casing from?

GF: He used to buy 'em at...from Swift and Company or from Purity Foods. He used to buy it in bulk, too, a lot at one time.

GG: And it comes cleaned already?

GF: It comes clean, but he used to wash it. Wash it with lemon and parsley. The Portuguese people are very clean. They had to wash it. My mother, she was something else. That thing had to be washed. And put lemon and fresh parsley. We'd wash it all out. Then her job, my mother---she had a stroke and this left hand wasn't good, so she was no good for that. But poor thing, her job was washing up the place and washing up the aprons. She couldn't stand my father with a dirty apron. She had nice, white aprons. We all had to have nice, clean aprons (and a cloth on our head). Then, as I say, he moved to the Mainland and he took all his equipment with him.

GG: Did he plan to make sausage up there or...

GF: Yeah. But he never did. He was so busy...exploring the place. He bought a car there. He was already in his sixties. He was a young man, though. But then, as I say, he had heart condition. He loved it! He never had chance to make sausage. Just go, go, go. And my mother loved it, too. But then, you see, we were surprised at this, because when they left to the Mainland, my sister...

GG: Do you know what year it was?

GF: 1956. We thought Mama was going to take it bad because Mama the one helped her with the kids. Because she had a set of twins, and she had two other children, so Mama helped her a lot and my father, too. But Mama got over it. She was so busy, she had yard work to do and, you know, taking care of the sausage house. She got out of it fast. But we didn't know my father was taking it bad.

GG: Oh, for heaven's sake.

GF: Yeah, one time he just went up to her and he said, "Sarah," he said, "we going away to the Mainland."

And my mother says, "Are you out of your mind?"

And he said, "Yes, Sarah." He says, "I'm missing the kids." Well, he never said that before.

So Mama said, "You want to go, you go yourself. I'm not going."

So he says, "Well, Sarah," he said, "I'm selling the business and I'm going."

"You mean to tell me you're selling the business and going?"

Said, "Yes. I'm selling everything, house and all. I'm going."

My mother said, "Well, you go. I'm going to stay with my Gloria."

With me. My father said, "Well, if you want to stay with Gloria, you can stay, but I'm leaving."

Because my sister kept writing to come up, too. She missed them. So they went, they both went. But when she left, all day she never spoke a word. She never spoke a word. Do you remember that, Daddy?

MF: Mhm. Then she forgot that snuff.

GF: My mother used to smell snuff. And I had to put her shoes on. I had to put her stockings. I had made a new dress for her. And she never said a word. She never opened her mouth that day when she left. And when she got to the airport, my mother always smelled snuff. My father couldn't stand it, because she look like an old lady smelling snuff. So she used to hide the snuff. So she had a little pocket inside of her apron, with the snuff. And she used to smell it, but she forgot the snuff. We were afraid because if she had that snuff, at least she was contented. But no, no snuff. She went without the snuff on the plane. (Laughs) Well, do you know she was there and after a year. My sister-in-law was coming back to Hawaii to visit her family. And she says, "Ma---she had some business here to do because her family had sold some property, and she was coming over. So she said, "Ma, you want to go with me and visit your family there?" Because I have another sister here. She said, "Sure, I wouldn't mind go and stay with my Gloria for two weeks. And come back with me." Well, she was here one week.

MF: She wanted to go back.

GF: And she went back in one week.

GG: Oh, my!

GF: She just couldn't stand it here. She said she loved their getting up in

the morning in the Mainland and putting a nice warm slippers on and nice robe and sit in the nice warm heated room. And she loved that, and she loved going out in the yard and sweeping the yard and sweeping all the rubbish out to the road because where she was, you'd sweep the leaves up to the road.

GG: And then the street cleaners come along.

GF: Yeah, the street cleaners would clean, you know. And she'd love that. Well, she loved every bit of it. But then my father passed away. And then, I think three years after, she did. We said the climate, I don't think was good for them, too, you know. My sister sent all the equipment back to me. I said, "What was I going to do with all of that?" I have no place for that. So I sold the feeder---but I kept the tools. I kept the funnel that he used to make the sausage. And I kept the stick and the pan, the beautiful big aluminum pan. The stainless steel pan, rather, that I kept. I still got it. Because every once in a while I make sausages.

GG: Oh, you do?

GF: Yeah. Uh huh. For my family, my friends, I make. You see, my father's business was pork sausages and blood sausages.

GG: I know they have Italian blood sausage and I wondered if the Portuguese had a blood sausage, too.

GF: Right. But, you see, there's a difference. I don't know with what kind of blood the Italians make but the Portuguese make it with pig blood. But the ones that you buy in the market is made from cow blood. There's a very, very big difference in taste and color. If you make 'em with the cow blood, it gets red. Pig blood, it gets black. But there's a difference. And it such big demand. If I only had...

GG: Not sold the equipment.

GF: Well, not so much the equipment. You always can get 'em. If I had a big place that I could make. Like for instance, if I only had money. At that time I didn't have any money, and my husband was just a laundry man, and I had four kids to educate, and I had to go out to work, I couldn't buy the business. And he sold it for \$17,000, he sold the whole works!

MF: In one month's time they doubled (the value of the property).

GG: I could believe it. Now when did he start his sausage business? You remember when that was?

GF: He started his sausage business around 1950...oh, so, you see, he made a trip in 1954. He was already in the sausage business. So he was going back to visit...

MF: Portugal.

GF: He was going to Portugal. And he was going to improve, maybe improve in some way, the sausage. See if he could improve or to see if there was other way of making sausage from the way he made his sausage here. Because he was young and maybe had overlooked something. There was some oversight or something, you know. He said he would go back and maybe there's something that he could add to it. So he went. Well. God, he got so disgusted. He said the way---not sanitary at all. You know, they cut the pork, they throw it down in the cement. And the cement isn't clean. And they make that sausages and they hang it up, and the flies. And oh! He said he never was so disgusted. He said he just couldn't stand it.

GG: This was in Portugal while he was there?

GF: In Portugal. And he said, "Oh, and here I thought that I was going to improve. Boy," he said, "it was terrible." Well, that's true because I just came from there. I was there in June and July. I went this year. And I'm telling you, it's not Portuguese people!

(GG laughs)

GF: Really they are filthy! And what, poverty, and nothing is refrigerated. You go to---we went to the hotel parties there, and they have bowls and bowls of salad and it's out. It's not set in---you know we're so used to it setting in a bowl of ice and stuff. There's nothing. It just sat there. We went to a party one time. This hotel had invited us to go and dance there, because we went with my dancing club, you know, the Camoes Players. And they had food set out on the table. Now it had been sitting there all evening. And they told us after we get through dancing, we could go and eat. Well, lot of us just looking at it, we got sick to our stomach because they just was sitting there.

GG: How does the Portuguese in Hawaii, then, get so clean and so conscientious?

GF: I don't know. Really. It's really a mystery, I tell you. You know, there's an old saying. "The good Lord maybe make you poor, but he give you cleanliness, too." You can be poor and you can be clean, too. So that was very unusual for Portuguese people. They go shopping by the day. And they bring fish home in little plastic bags. And no paper bags. We didn't see one paper bag. Everything in plastic. You can see through. And they getting on the bus right with that fish. It's all fish, mostly fish. And they getting on the bus, they nicely dressed. But the fish in a little plastic bags. You can see the fish in the plastic bags.

(Laughter)

GF: But anyway, so he came back home, my father and he said, "Oh, here I thought I was going to improve my sausage business." Said, "Boy, this is real the best."

MF: He used to make good sausage.

GF: I was talking to somebody the other day and he said, "Boy," he says, "nobody

made sausage like your father." In fact, even was---before this Mr. Gouveia came up---you know this Gouveia sausage, my father was making sausage before the Gouveia sausage came out. And then after my father moved to the Mainland, Gouveia was trying to get me to go work for him. But then I didn't want. I didn't want.

MF: She went look over there and they tell her, "Oh, yeah, you hired."

GF: Uh huh. Right away.

MF: And then my wife says, "To go over there and get all that"---you know, you get 'em all wet, eh. She never showed up.

(Laughter)

GG: Well, did your father get into his sausage business then after the war, or before?

GF: After the war. Yeah.

GG: But he did it after work hours and on his, you know, like weekends or...

GF: Yeah. Uh huh.

GG: And then how did he get his customers? By word of mouth or...

MF: Telephone.

GF: He went and delivered. Telephone. And he went and delivered all himself with little grandchildren, my sister's kids, used to go with him, and go inside of the neighborhood. He had these regular customers that he used to go. But the blood sausage was the best. I mean, for profit, you can't beat the blood sausage. But you can't get blood in Hawaii. In Honolulu, it's all condemned.

MF: But some, clean 'em up in some place...

GF: Well, you can get, like the Filipinos, they will make something with blood. But just a little poi bowl. When I make, I got to make by the gallon. Now, 75 cents a small little poi bowl, how much I need, to make sausage. I'm not going to dirty myself with just that--I might as well make it worthwhile.

GG: Okay, well, let's go back a little bit, now, earlier to what, perhaps are your first memories of Kakaako? You came, I realize when you were a baby. You were two. But what do you first remember? What was your house like? And where was your house?

GF: Yeah, well, our house was on Ward Street, and they had a little river in front of my mother's house. And we had to go across...

MF: From Ward.

GF: Yeah, we had to go across on a board to go into Mama's house--into our house there. Had to cross the river. You see how backward people were.

MF: Well, hardly no people those days.

GF: But the water used to come down, and we used to go down in that river and play with the water running down. And that's a sewer! Isn't that the sewer?

MF: No. That's...

GF: Wasn't the sewer?

MF: No. You see, the Ward Street, they have a spring. That's where you see all that fish inside there. That's all spring water coming out of there. And then the waste water come out through...they put cement on it now.

GF: We used to go and play, we kids used to go play Miss Ward's lot. You know where HIC now?

GG: I was going to ask now. Where were you on Ward in relation to...

GF: We're not far from Ward.

MF: Used to be all Portuguese.

GF: Just before you get to GEMS, you know where Libery Bank there, over there. I think it's the Liberty Bank over there in the corner of Ward and Queen.

GG: And were there other houses close by you or...

GF: Yeah, there was all little houses around there.

GG: Were they just single story or two-story or...

MF: No business.

GF: No, no, no. All single.

GG: And was that primarily Portuguese area there?

GF: Well, Hawaiians. I don't remember Japanese, now. But Hawaiians, yeah.

GG: Were there quite a few Portuguese down the street though?

GF: Yeah, quite a few Portuguese families, yeah, and Hawaiians. Well, like we used to know, like, we had a friend of ours---my mother is very good neighbor, called Mayor Fern. Well, he lived close by.

GG: I didn't realize he had lived right in Kakaako, too.

GF: Yeah. We used to know him. He used to live right in Kakaako. And then

we used to go and play in Ward's lot, and she didn't want us in there. She was so mean. She had that place always guarded, you know. My grandma used to live right in the back, and "Hustacepeck"-they call it Hustace and Peck. But we kids used to say "Hustacespeck." We used to go there and play, and we used to take the boards out from her fence. Because they all boarded. And we used to go in there and shoot the birds, little mynah birds.

GG: With rocks or...

GF: No, with the BB gun.

GG: Oh.

(Laughter)

GF: I'm sure was about five years old, just about that, and we used to go shoot the birds. And then you know what we used to do? We used to clean the feathers and make a little fire right in Mrs. Ward's yard, and cook the birds. Come to think of it--I was thinking about that the other day. Was my sisters and my cousins. That's what we used to do. We look forward to go in that yard, because you know she had lot of coconut trees, so there was a lot of mynah birds. You could hear that mynah birds.

MF: Oh, yeah.

GF: And we said, "Oh, we going make a good haul today with the mynah birds." And we used to go there and shoot the mynah birds. Oh, I can see that now.

GG: And then you'd cook 'em over the fire, and you'd eat 'em?

GF: We cook 'em over the fire and we'd eat it.

GG: Oh, for goodness sake. Mynah birds.

(Laughter)

GF: Mynah birds.

GG: Any other kind?

GF: No, I think that's the only kind of birds that was there. I don't remember any other kind. Doves, I think, eh, or mynah birds.

GF: Mynah bird, mynah birds, yeah.

MF: Because in the morning they make a loud racket, those kind of birds.

GF: Then we were there. And there was little incidents that happened. For instance, my mother then had a set of twins. And I was, well, how old was I? I was about seven. My mother had the set of twins. We used to help my mother. I took one twin, and my older sister took one twin. You know, we used to help her carry around. Well, my sister fell in the river with one

of the twins, and the twin died. The twin died. Not right then and there, but she was sick, sick, and then the baby died.

GG: Did your mother have a midwife or did she go to the hospital?

GF: Midwife, all of them, midwife.

GG: Portuguese midwife?

GF: Yeah. Then that was---now that was on January the second. You listen, now. January the second, she had those two children. That same year, October the tenth, she had two more.

GG: Oh, my goodness!

(MF laughs)

GF: In another year, she had two more. But of that six children, only two lived. 'Cause she had my sister Evangeline and me and my brother. Three single. And the other, two, two, two.

GG: Three double births.

GF: Yeah, double birth.

GG: Oh, my goodness. All within a very short time.

GF: Yeah, very short time. And all with midwife. I remember my mother saying--- but now I think it's impossible, you know. I remember Mama saying that the kids were wrapped up in cotton for a month. Now that couldn't be. How could they survive?

GG: Well, did they change the cotton from, you know, daily or something?

GF: I don't know. But I remember she said that they were premature. And they were wrapped in cotton.

MF: Just like incubator.

GF: But, Felix, how can they without food?

MF: Oh yeah, that's right.

GF: I don't know, but maybe they were feeding the babies. Now I don't know. But she never mentioned food. She always said the babies were wrapped up for one month in cotton.

GG: Now when the midwife would come to the house, what were the customs, 'cause you were old enough. Did you children wait in another room till it was all over?

GF: Oh, yes! We didn't know Mama was going to have a baby until...well, not

even the midwife came over there, we still didn't think that was for babies. Just because she always used to come to Mama's house. You know, they were always friends. Then first thing you know...

MF: The baby's crying.

GF: We heard the baby crying. Then Mama had another baby. Then Mama used to stay in bed for quite sometime.

GG: Were there special customs or like certain foods that the midwife or the family would prepare or...

GF: Well, that's what I used to like about giving birth, you know. Because the tradition just kept on going. As soon as Mama gave birth, my father had already the soup going. The chicken soup going with a lot of canela. Canela means cinammon. With cinammon sticks at that time. Put cinammon sticks in, and he boil 'em and boil them, and boil them. And then he bring the bowl of soup to my mother. And she would drink that soup, and that's all she had. That's only what she could eat, now. Was only that chicken soup. Of course, the chicken, too. And she'd eat that chicken soup until she was strong enough to do her own work. And then when I had my children, she did the same to me. I had to be eating chicken soup, and chicken soup. (Laughs)

MF: She used to love it.

GF: And I used to love it, too. Because they used to make it so good. Mama make it so good. And even up to this day, I love it. Everytime when I make that, I remind me of, you know, having my children. And all of a sudden she didn't have any children after the last baby, after the last twins. And she still a young woman, yet, Mama. She was still a young woman when she had the last two. But I know definitely that she never had herself fixed, because she never went to the doctor. Everything was midwife.

GG: What about for medicines when you were sick or anything like that? Did you go to the doctor then? Or did the Portuguese have...

GF: Well, we did. I tell you, we were poor. And they used to get over there, just past the Magoon Block, a court there. They call it the Kawaiahao Court. And in that court, they had a little room there that the Board of Health had rented, I guess. So if anybody got hurt, or you were sick, you'd go there. The lady was there, the Board of Health nurse. And you'd go there and they'd...anything, there was a little sore stomach, or thought you had a little cut or anything, you go there. But they were very, very mean to us. Look at my finger here.

GG: Oh, my goodness.

GF: I was going up the railing--my hand going up the railing, a piece of stick went as far as here (to first joint). And then she pulled it out. But what they didn't do to this finger before they pulled it out. And then when I screamed, she hit me. You know, little things like that, you don't

forget. She hit me because I screamed, you see. So my finger never grow straight. And then they had where the McKesson Building there, right there in the corner there. Kawaiahao Street, there. There was a small little room there. They had from Board of Health. The people used to go there.

MF: Used to be kindergarten there.

GF: Used to be a kindergarten there. Was kindergarten from the State, free kindergarten, yeah. And in the corner there was that house that the people used to go there, all from Kakaako because all poor people living around there.

MF: I used to go to that kindergarten.

GG: So they didn't charge you for...

GF: No.

GG: They just had a nurse. And there were two places then? One... Did the Kakaako...

GF: No. One place...that one was first, then came the Kawaiahao Court. Because that one was there, then when they built the Kawaiahao Court after, then they had their building in Kawaiahao Court. They brought from the kindergarten room, they came to there.

GG: And what do you mean by Kawaiahao Court?

GF: There was a big court where they build about---almost like a Kuhio Park Terrace.

GG: I see.

GF: Something like that, but not that big. Only had about two stories. About four buildings with two stories. That's where lot of these Kakaako people lived there. I mean, heck, you know, I guess you had to be really poor to go and live there.

GG: It was sort of like public housing?

GF: Yeah, yeah. Same thing like a public housing, yeah.

GG: You don't know what you had to do or how you qualified to get in there or...

GF: Well, majority was Hawaiian people there and Filipinos, yeah, Felix?

MF: I don't remember that.

GF: Oh, yes. I remember that so well. I remember Filipinos...

MF: 'Cause I wasn't there. I was in Maui.

GF: But then there was Hawaiians. And Filipinos. But I'm sure you have to be in a certain poverty level before you can qualify.

GG: Was this when you were pretty young or about how old were you?

GF: Yes. Oh, I'd say I was about ten years old. Because, you see, it was brand new, and they knocked it down already. You know, it's no more now. They knocked it, eh. It got old, old, and then they knocked it down. ...don't know what they got there now. They got another building there now.

MF: Ah, the garage and...

GF: McKesson.

MF: But they put a garage there, too...

GF: And then for our teeth we had to go to Palama Settlement. They had Palama Settlement. That was mean, too. That's why I vowed, I said to my kids, "My kids will never go through what I went through." We had to go Palama, and they were so mean, those doctors. They treat us so mean, because we were all, you know, no money. From school we had to go there and just---and, oh, it scared us so much to go there because they use to hurt us so bad. And then after that, instead of going to Palama, we use to go where the Mission Memorial is? Is not Mission Memorial now. The State took over. In the back, they had a house from the State. Well, the State had bought all of that. Then we would go back there. The State had a dentist there that you could go free, too. And you could go there, and they'd---they would hurt us so bad. They didn't care, you know. Big gang of us kids all got together. All walk from Pohukaina School. We use to walk. But Palama, we use to catch the bus. But when it came to the State over there, we use to get---we all use to walk together down to the---oh, and all of us was crying. We were so scared, you know, and wish our mothers was with us. I vowed, I says, "My kids are not going through this."

GG: Were your mothers working or just that she couldn't...

GF: No, she was home, but she had little kids, too, you know. She had...

GG: So the school took you then?

GF: Yeah, yeah.

GG: What about the kindergarten, now? You said that was a free kindergarten sponsored by the Territory or something?

GF: Yeah, uh huh. By the State.

GG: Was that for children of working mothers or...

MF: No, those days, I don't think mothers used to go to work (not much jobs for women).

GF: No. But Felix, it wasn't kindergarten, either.

MF: It was a kindergarten at my time. That's was way back in 1909, 1908.

GF: But I never went to kindergarten. I know it was a kindergarten there, but I never went to kindergarten, so I don't know.

GG: You remember the name of the kindergarten?

GF: Was it the Muriel Kindergarten?

MF: I forget. I don't know.

GF: Muriel Kindergarten, Felix.

MF: Muriel? Yeah, you should remember 'cause you was here.

GF: Well, I tell you, the Muriel Kindergarten, you know why it's a Muriel Kindergarten? Because they moved. They were in Kawaiahao Courts, near Kawaiahao Court, and then they moved to Ilaniwai Street, remember?

MF: Oh, yeah, yeah.

GF: You remember they moved? They were in the back of that---now, you see, that's right. They were in the back of Kawaiahao Court. I never forgot his name. Mr. Brown.

MF: Yeah, the haole guy.

GF: And the haole fellow. Was a nice people. And they moved...

MF: But wait, that's our time. That's when we were married already.

GF: Yeah.

MF: Now we talking about...

GF: Yeah, I mean, well, it was there. It was there, Felix. It was there before they moved, too. That was same---I don't mean the same people, but that was the kindergarten there.

MF: Oh, I see. That's right. Even my boy---we used to take him to go to the kindergarten. That's right, yeah. In Ilaniwai Street.

GG: And then you said, now, in this court area where there were Hawaiians and Filipinos, were there many Filipinos or do you remember what time period this is?

GF: Yeah, because they had Portuguese. Portuguese, Filipinos, and Hawaiians. But was a lot of Filipinos and Hawaiians. Not too much Portuguese. In fact I know of a girl that married this Filipino that she was living in

that court for some time. And I remember that so well.

GG: Are they still around?

GF: Yeah.

GG: Do you know the name? The reason I ask is because so far, we haven't been able to find any Filipino people that lived in Kakaako way back then.

GF: Oh, well, I know a family that used to live in Kakaako many years. That Peralto, Mrs. Peralto. P-E-R-A-L-T-O.

GG: And she was married to Filipino?

GF: Yeah, Filipino.

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

GF: Yeah, we, all the Portuguese people use to buy from these Japanese stores. There's lot of these Japanese stores, they would understand Portuguese, because, you know, the old Portuguese ladies used to go there, and...

MF: They talk.

GF: They talk to them what they wanted in Portuguese so they would know. They wouldn't speak, but they would understand, the Japanese stores.

GG: So you when you went to school, how far? You walk to school or...

GF: Yes, we walk to school. It wasn't very far, and we had to come home for lunch, because, you know, no such thing as buying lunch.

(Tape is turned off, then taping is resumed.)

GF: It was a very rough neighborhood. Because not that they would bother us. We were safe because they knew all of us. Nobody could come down in Kakaako and get bully, because they let 'em have it. So in other words, that every-time we had a game coming on, our people, we were the bulls of everything. They was afraid to even play with us, because if we lose, they was going to get into trouble. (Laughs)

GG: Was this like the Kakaako Sons that you're talking about?

GF: Yeah, Kakaako Sons, yeah. I got a picture of the Kakaako Sons taken quite a few years ago. My brother is in it.

GG: I was going to ask did your brother play with them?

GF: My brother played with Kakaako Sons, but my brother was barred, because

when he'd lose, he'd fight.

(Laughter)

GF: And that time, was Red Zimmerman, he was one of the best...

MF: Referees.

GF: Referees there were. So my brother was barred. Everytime they would have a football game, he couldn't play. My brother couldn't play because my brother was such a big man. If the guy would tackle him, he would punch them, you know. And that Red Zimmerman, he was such an up and up guy, he said, "That guy is not playing as long as I'm a referee, he's not playing."

GG: Who was coach at that time or do you remember?

GF: Well, the coach, Felix, from Kakaako who was the coach at that time?

GG: Was it Julian Judd or was that...

GF: Yeah, Judd! Judd!

MF: Yeah, Judd! Yeah.

GF's daughter: How did you know that?

GG: Well, we've been doing research to find out what we could by looking in newspaper articles and things like that, because, you know, if I don't know anything about the area, then I can't ask questions so we can get answers.

GF's daughter: Oh, I see, I see.

MF: Yeah, Judd, Judd. That's right. Was Judd.

GG: Was your brother into boxing or diving or any of that, too?

GF: No. He couldn't get into anything like that because they barred him from everything, because he use to fight. Everything. He couldn't. He's a very sore loser.

(Laughter)

GF: But the Huihui boys---I don't know if you got to know the Huihui boys, the brothers.

GF: I went to school with one of their sons.

GF: The Huihui boys, that's something else, now.

GF's daughter: I grew up with one of them.

GF: They were our neighbors.

GF's daughter: There's got to be one my age.

GF: That's Kepa.

GF's daughter: Yeah, they never called 'em "Kepa."

GF: Well, his wife is working for---used to be court reporter---not, secretary for Judge McGregor at one time. I don't think he's a judge any more. But I know she used to work as secretary for Judge McGregor. He married good, that boy. He was the best of the Huihui boys. But that was my mother's neighbor, too, on Queen Street.

GG: Oh, the Huihuis were your mother's neighbors?

GF: The Huihuis was my mother's neighbors. My brother Sonny and the Huihuis very good friends. And when he use to hit one brother, the Huihuis, he had to hit the three brothers. Yeah. He'd come home and he'd get so mad because the three brothers hit him, and...

MF: Well, when he catch one, he bust 'em up. When he catches one, you know.

GF: But the next time, you have to fight the three brothers.

GG: How did your father react at your brother being...

GF: Oh, very, very---my father never---I hate to tell you this, but my father and my brother never got along. My father despised my brother in everything he did. Because everything he did, he didn't do right. Nothing he did that was right. And being the only boy, you see, because I have three sisters and one brother, everything he was spoiled rotten by Mama. And my father, as I say, was such an intelligent man, he couldn't see that boy getting everything he wanted and getting away with everything, and Mama spoiling him. We even sent him away. And my father kept telling, "Sarah, you doing the wrong thing. That boy is supposed to be put away now. He's supposed to be put away now, because that's the time to teach 'em, now. When he's young."

GG: Did he ever hang around Magoon Block? With the boys around there?

GF: Yeah. Sure. Uh huh. That's where the thing was. Then we had a probation officer by the name of Harold Godfrey. He was a probation officer. And my brother got into so much trouble. But at those days, was politics. You could go and talk to this person and say, "Eh, how about getting me out?" Because my father was a big politician. And he could go and talk to the fellows, say, "Eh, how about letting that kid out?" Because my mother was a very sick woman over my brother. So much trouble that he got, he made my mother a very sick woman. So my father use to say, "Sarah, you sick is because of that boy." But you could never say that to Momma.

GG: Your father was involved in the politics?

GF: Politics.

GG: What did he do?

GF: Oh, my father was a campaign manager for Mr. Wright. He was Mayor Wright. And what the other one? Another old one, old one. Marshal Wright... Felix, who's the mayor? The mayor was Wright, and who's the other mayor?

GF's daughter: Blaisdell.

MF: No---yeah, Blaisdell.

GF: No, he didn't work for Blaisdell.

MF: Yeah, Republican. Your father was working for Blaisdell.

GF: But my father wasn't working for Blaisdell at that time, Felix.

MF: Oh, Wright.

GF: Wright. Wright, and another one.

GG: Not Fern?

GF: No, not Fern. But anyway...

MF: McCandless, he never worked for McCandless.

GF: No, no. But you see, my father was such a (well-known) man, working for these people that was running for office, that he got a very good job when... when the guy won.

MF: Was Mayor Wright, Mayor Wright time.

GF: Because at that time, the Republicans was two to one compared to the Democrats. They were outnumbered, the Democrats, you see. So the Democrats had no chance. Then Republicans had the money, Democrats didn't have. Now in this day and age, it's the other way around. And so my father got a job as superintendent of all the schools. Being a carpenter, he was superintendent of all. He just went to see every school, whatever it needed to be repaired, and then he would send a man over to do it. But then after the guy would get out of office, he would lose his job, too.

(GG laughs)

MF: If the Mayor get out, you out, too.

GG: Still that way, though.

MF: No, not now. Not now.

GF: Well, depend on the higher office, Felix, yeah.

MF: Now you take these guys working the Parks, eh.

GF: Well, it's civil service, that. You don't get out.

MF: Yeah, that's what I mean. But before...

GG: I think appointed positions now, though.

GF: Appointed positions, yeah, yeah.

MF: Before, your mayor get out, everybody get out. The Republicans or the Democrats get in. And used to be good fun those days, eh.

GG: I was going to ask now, did your father help organize political rallies?

GF: Yeah, sure.

GG: What were they like or did you ever go?

GF: Oh, yes. We had to go. (Laughs) And got to put leaflets all around. They had 'em in Mother Waldron Park right there. They used to have political rallies there, both Republican and Democrat rallies. And the men used to go around there, and oh, my father with all his glory, when his mayor-to-be used to come around.

MF: They used to run for the Prosecuting Attorney, too, before. Now they appoint, eh. But they should get those kind, you know. Nominate the Prosecuting Attorney.

GF: So it was really nice. We enjoyed it. My father'd go all around.

MF: Yeah, used to go hire music, kanikapila, you know, the Hawaiians.

MF: The mayor would come, he bring his group. He play and talk, talk, talk.

GF: Yeah, and my father used to be, as I said, a big politician. That's how my brother used to get out of a lot of trouble, because my father used to go see this fellow, and that fellow and then that's how my brother used to get out.

GF's daughter: I'm learning, too. I didn't know that.

GG: That's part of the reason we're doing it, because then the children find out, too.

GF: Yeah. One time my brother got into trouble. He stole from Pohukaina School. He didn't steal, but he was the watchman. He was watching the people, watching for the janitor, and the guys stole, so when they caught my brother, they took 'em to jail. I mean took 'em to court, and then my father...the judge said, "Mr. Pacheco, this is it." He already caused a lot of trouble. Don't go to school and all that. "This boy got to go to Kahuku." At that time was Kahuku.

And my father said, "Oh gee. If I had my way, throw that kid in jail and throw the key away." He said, "He's given us so much trouble." And he come

home and tell my mother that the judge is going to put 'em away.

Oh my mother! She cried and she cried. Said, "Please do something, Joe. Do something for him."

And my father said, "What can I do, Sarah? Put 'em away now." He said, "I'm ashamed to go in front of those judges so many times and tell 'em to do something for that boy. I'm ashamed. In my caliber, you know, and I'm ashamed to get this kind of a boy." My father used to tell my mother. So he went to the judge again.

GF's daughter: You were still home?

GF: I was still home. I went to the judge, and the judge said, "Well, Mr. Pacheco, I tell you what I do. This boy got to leave the island. Leave the island, but make sure it's got somebody in the Mainland to take care of him, because he's no good here in the Islands. He's going to get into trouble again. You send---you write to your wife's family or what family you got there and find out if they want the boy. If they don't want the boy, let me know. But I want a written letter stating that they are willing to take the boy."

Well, do you know I was the one went down to the telegraph office. And do you know, I'll never forget those words, word for word. "My son going up, keeping him from going to Kahuku. Answer yes or no before I send 'em up." This is exactly the words. I'll never forget that.

Well, in the couple of days we had the letter back. "Send 'em. We are willing to take care of him." So I took the letter. My father, poor thing, was working. I was the one that took the letter to the judge. But do you know the judge didn't want to let my brother get out? Even with the letter, after he said he was going to let him go.

And he said, "Oh, we can't let him go." My father, poor thing, he was working for the county. He was his own boss, of course, he looked at the paper.

The judge said, "Joe, look at this paper! Look what it's got here." He said, "The book is filled," he said. "Even I can't send 'em away."

And my father said, "Well, you promised me that if I would get that letter from the Mainland that they be willing to take him that you would send him away."

Said, "Well, okay. But I don't think this is going to be the end. I'll do that." So we send 'em.

GG: Who did you send him to?

GF: My mother's sister.

GG: In what state?

GF: In California. Well, it stood there. Was okay for a couple of weeks. Then he's pau this, and pau that. They started to make fun the way he talk. He used to fight, and my auntie got mad. She couldn't stand him, and she locked him out of the house one time. He got into trouble in school. He started to fight the kids in school. Bust the kids up in school. The probation officer from there said, "We don't want this kid here. He don't belong here. Send 'em back to Honolulu. He been giving us so much trouble here. Send 'em back." Okay, send 'em back to Honolulu. The probation officer let my father know that my brother was coming back because he make lots of trouble there. My father went down there---my mother was so glad that he was coming home. My father go down to the airport to go get my brother. The policeman was there to take him to detention home.

And my father got mad. My father said, "Now listen here, you folks didn't tell me that boy was under arrest. You just told me that you sending 'em home." So my mother cried, and cried, and cried. And my father went and see another person. Okay, they got him home. You see. But then it was continuous, continuous trouble after trouble, and trouble after trouble. And one time, he would fight, he would hit my husband. He would hit anybody come his way. He was mean. Just like that boy had almost the devil in him. He was very, very mean. We would never get into a family conversation. We could never get into---you know how my family get together and talk. He'd never, he'd never get into a conversation and talk. He just wouldn't talk to us. He knew everything. He just knew everything. Nobody could talk to him. I guess was the Kakaako blood in him, or I don't know. But then the school, we couldn't go play in the park. But nowadays---we was talking about the other day. We couldn't go play in the park. You go play in the park, it was the worst thing you could tell your parents, "Let's go to the park." And we could never because the park was a dirty word.

GG: Why was that?

GF: Because all the bad boys use to hang around the park. So even if we wanted to go play in the park, we couldn't because our parents wouldn't allow us playing in the park. We were talking about the other day, because now, this families, they send their kids to the park to get rid of them.

GF's daughter: Where else could you send them?

GF: You know, yeah. But our days it was a disgrace if a girl was seen in the park. But as I say, the time is changed now and anybody goes to the park now and get rid of the kids.

GG: Was there a big group of the boys that were considered bad boys?

GF: Yeah, they were. They were bad boys that would hang around the park, that's why. But the kids, we would want to go to play in the swings, like that, you know, after school. No, we had to come right home. Cannot go to the park after school. You have to be right home. And if we weren't home, go to the park, that is.

GG: Were these young boys or teenagers?

GF: Well, they were teenagers, not only teenagers. I mean, boys went to school and boys used to hang around the park. Just sit there in the park and used to have drunkards, too, in the park.

GG: Did they hang around anywhere else or just mostly on the park?

GF: On the park. Oh, they use to hang around the corners, too. But that was the bigger boys. That was the Kakaako boys. Used to hang around the corner. And used to have the policeman go there. But that policeman was scared of the Kakaako boys, too. He was afraid of them. You know, everytime when they have a fight, he would keep away, you know.

GG: That's corner of where?

GF: Corner of Queen and Cooke. The corner over there.

GG: Near where the fire station is?

GF: No, no, no. It's way down near...it's further down by...you know where used to be Primo?

GG: The brewery?

GF: The brewery. Right straight up. Straight up. Going up to Primo. Then right there, Cooke and Queen. Right there. That was the main corner where all the boys...and girls, we use to pass by and they always use to, to make a remark everytime us girls use to pass by. But we knew them. They were harmless, I mean, because we knew them. You see, we could leave our door open. And Mama never had a key for the house. They were always open.

GG: They didn't bother their own then?

GF: No, they didn't bother their own. I never forget one time we were home, and they had a big dance. The ships used to come in, the Lurline, and the Mari-posa, and all, they use to come in. And they have a big dance at the... Kewalo Club House. They call the Kewalo Club House. And everytime the boats use to come in, that boys from the ship now, use to come there. And it was haole boys, you know, the haole boys. They use to have the dances and music. And the Kakaako boys use to come there and gang 'em up and beat the heck out of them. And they use to run. They don't know where to hide. Yet they were just having good fun there. You know, dancing with the girls. I guess they didn't like them dancing with their girls.

GG: And where were the girls from? Were they from...

GF: From our place. Right from our place. But the girls use to like to go because they liked to dance. But our boys couldn't see that. One went as far as running in our house.

GF's daughter: It's still going on, Mother.

MF: Still going on.

GF: One of them ran in---in fact, ran inside my mother's house, 'cause we were living on the same street. They used to run in my mother's house to hide from the Kaka'a'o boys, because they wanted to beat 'em up. They were very mean, the boys. (Laughs) But as I say, they wasn't to us because they know us well. Because we all live together. That's what's lacking in this world. Is no more togetherness. I mean, like little houses where everybody knows one another, you know, and get together. Like for instance, we use to visit all the time. No more TV, so Mama said, "We going over Mrs. Robello's house tonight." And we visit. Mama use to sit on the porch and talk, and then come home at nine o'clock. And the next night, we visit another neighbor. That was nice. You don't see that any more. That friendliness like...

GG: If the mother sat on the porch and visited, what did you kids do?

GF: We were playing out in the road. Because didn't have much cars. We use to play baseball until late. Out in the road.

GG: And the roads were still dirt roads?

GF: Still dirt road. I lost every one of my toenails from the rocks.

(Laughter)

MF: I lost some, too.

GF: But it was fun, though. Then we use to go on picnics. Mama use to---my mother was very famous to go to the beach and take lunch, take all of us kids to the beach---and we use to go to Waikiki Beach at night. Mama use to take all the food at night!

GF's daughter: You use to do that, too, with us.

GF: Yeah. And swim.

GG: And what beach did you go to?

GF: We use to go to Waikiki Beach, near Queen's Surf. Never had Ala Moana at that time, you know. Was all...Squattersville, over there.

GG: Did you know people from Squattersville?

GF: Yes, I know.

GG: And did you visit with them, too, or...

GF: Yes, visit with---I was young, and my mother had a good family there, very good friend that lived in Squattersville. I still see them every once in

a---I mean the kid, the boys, I see every once in a while.

GG: And was that mostly Hawaiian area in Squattersville or...

GF: Yes, yes. Mostly. But you could see---the family that Mama knew wasn't Hawaiian. Was Portuguese. The father---he was Portuguese, but she was Hawaiian. But, you see, there, I think they had to get some kind of Hawaiian blood. Now that come to think of it, the lady was Hawaiian, but he was Portuguese. And Mama used to visit them all the time.

GG: What were the houses like over there?

GF: Oh, make-shift houses. They made their own out of all those shacks.

MF: Oh, shacks. Shacks. Wood. By the beach.

GF: Build all their own little things. Just like pigeon houses.

GG: But how did they happen to move into that area or do you know?

GF: Well, you could. Hawaiians, you could. Before when they wouldn't stop you, anybody could go and build. They wouldn't care.

GG: Now you said your father owned his house. How did he get to buy his house or do you know?

GF: Well, when he started to work in the Navy Yard, then he got a few dollars together and then he bought a house. But he paid rent for quite some time. But then, my mother, as I say, was a happy go lucky woman, and she was in charge of the money all the time. He give her all the money. And she used to just go out with her friends and have a ball. And never had anything left all the time. So my father, one time he said, "Well," he said, "I think I have to manage the money myself, because I work. I make good money, and I don't see anything. There's nothing saved or anything." So he started to hold the money himself. And then that's how we got a few dollars together and he bought this home. Of course at that time, wasn't much money.

GG: Do you know who he bought it from?

GF: Yes, I know. Uh huh. Mr. Perry. He bought it from the man by the name of Mr. Perry.

GG: Did he own lot of property there or...

GF: No, just that new home there. That, he owned.

GG: Do you know when he bought it or...

GF: (About 1940). Susan and the twins were born in Queen Street. That's about 32 years ago. Yeah, so.

GF's daughter: The house is still there.

GG: What church did you go to when you were little?

GF: Saint Agnes Church over there in Kakaako .

GG: It's still there?

GF: Well, no. It's not there any more. They broke it down because---they condemned it. They was afraid...the foundation was giving way, so they were afraid it's going to fall down someday. So they knocked it down and they build a quonset hut there. And it was still our church there. The Bishop built a quonset hut because he said the people were moving out from that district and then eventually he wanted to use that as a warehouse. So that's what they did... Yeah, but, well, it's construction now. It's renting out to some other people. So when our pastor passed away, then the Bishop said he wasn't bringing anybody there. You know, he said he was going to take all these things away.

GG: Was that after the war when people started moving out or...

GF: Yes, about that. After the war.

GG: What about the Holy Ghost?

MF: The Holy Ghost is still there.

GG: Was it a church at one time or just a community, like a center?

GF: It was nothing to do with---it's not connected with the church at all, although it's Catholic activities that they have there. But has nothing to do with the Church. In fact, lot of priests doesn't recognize it. And yet it's a religious festival that they have.

GG: Was that a Portuguese religious festival?

GF: Yes. It brought back from the old country.

GG: And what time of the year or...

GF: Well, that different. All depend on the feast day. Like they have they feast of the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit. That's the main one. Fort Street use to have 'em. Cathedral? That's the main one. But since they had so many Portuguese living in Kakaako , so many living in Kalihi, so many living in Punchbowl here, so they would have 'em at different times instead of all at one time.

GG: I see. So that the Portuguese from one community could go to the other celebrations

GF: Go to the other one. That's how it was.

MF: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

GF: But eventually, Fort Street did away with it. They didn't want any part of it. They just did away with it. So Kalihi took all of their things. Their crown, their flags, and everything. Kalihi took it all over. The priest will go over and bless meat. They give you a piece of meat, a loaf of bread, and a loaf of sweetbread, and a bottle of wine. The priest would come there on Friday night and bless all that meat. And then on a Saturday morning, they go and deliver all that meat and stuff to all the members. And then while going in the house with the meat, they'll bring the Portuguese flag. I mean, not the flag, but the Holy Ghost pigeon with the meat in your house. And it was a real honor to have the Holy Ghost go in your house with the piece of meat that was blessed by Father, you see. And then they would go---like this driver would get Kakaako. Because they would belong to different, all different districts. Would belong to Kakaako. And all different districts would belong---you know. So that's why we all belong to the different ones, so it give us chance to go to all these different ones at different times. You see what I mean?

GG: Right. Well, maybe---I know your family's here to visit. Why don't we call it quits today and then if I can come back after I've listened to this and...

END OF INTERVIEW.

Tape No. 3-6-2-77

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Gloria Felix (GF)

September 14, 1977

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

BY: Gael Gouveia (GG)

GG: This is the second interview with Gloria Felix in her home. The date is September 14th, 1977. Okay, well, I thought today, I'd run down a few questions that---you know I went back and listened to the tape and there were a few things that I didn't clarify. And then we'll get into some other areas. So what was your dad's job on the plantation? On the Big Island? Do you remember?

GF: Overseer, daddy. Overseer. He had some men over him.

GF: They used to call 'em overseer. What they call overseer.

GG: He had people that worked under him?

GF: Yeah, under him.

MF: He was a foreman.

GF: Foreman, yeah. They call that the overseer at the plantation. Overseer.

GG: He was like a luna then?

GF: A luna. Yeah, luna, yeah.

GG: Do you remember which plantation he worked on?

GF: Oh, Papaikou Plantation.

GG: And you mentioned that your mother helped him. Do you know how she helped him or....

GF: In the plantation. Worked in the plantation.

GG: Oh, she helped work, too?

GF: Worked, too. Yeah.

GG: Do you know what kind of job she did or....

GF: Well, they were....

MF: Cut grass.

GF: Planting the pulapula. What is that, pulapula?

MF: Pulapula is the seed.

GG: The seed cane.

GF: Yeah. Well, I was tied back, and she used to go work with us in her back. And she always said that while she was planting that, we were pulling it out from the back.

(GG laughs)

GF: She always said that.

GG: You weren't much help then?

GF: Wasn't much help, but she used to carry us on her back while she went to work. They allow them to go to work with the children, you know.

GG: Okay. And what kind of a job did your father have at Pier Two? Do you remember that?

GF: Oh, he was a boat builder.

MF: ...he work in the dry dock.

GF: The dry dock. That's the boats. You not going to build boats out in the sea.

MF: Well, he work on the boats.

GG: And do you know off-hand why they did away with--you said the dry dock down there?

GF: No, it was Inter-Island drydock.

GG: I see. And do you know why they did away with it or....

GF: No, they never exactly did away with it, because they...

MF: They were no boats.

GF: No, they were...getting rid of some of the force. Not so much people. At that time, they use to lay off quite a bit, not now days. But before, they use to do lot of lay-offs. So my father--- I don't remember now, if he was laid off or what, but I remember he saying that...

MF: No, he quit.

GF: He quit (to work for the county for two years, then his own contracting business for two years). Then to the Navy Yard. But then at that time, they were laying off quite a bit of people, too. So my father had that opportunity to go. He always was worried about being laid off. Contracting business. With another man, daddy. He built that building there. The State building. Not the state, but you know when you go and get the--use to go and get the license before Downtown on Queen Street. Queen and Punchbowl.

GG: Not City Hall?

GF: No, no, no.

MF: No, that's not City Hall. That's on Queen.

GG: Further down on Queen?

GF: It's a Federal building. Isn't it the Federal....the old...

GG: Oh, the Department of Transportation? Is that where it is sort of?

MF: No, it's across this old building.

GF: It's an old building. It's right across the tax office. Not exactly--- the tax office is facing the Circuit Court. But it's in a corner there. It's the Federal building, if I'm not mistaken, Felix. I know to the back is the---well, under there, they use to go and get your marriage license there. Well, he build that building.him and two guys were on the contracting business.

MF: He was going on contract.

GF: Yeah, contract with the other guy. Mr. Jogenson. I never forgot his name, Mr. Jacobson.

GG: And they got the contract and built the whole thing from the ground up?

GF: Yeah, from the ground up. In fact, right now, if you pass through there---oh, the front one they remodeling, too. The back one, they remodeling now. They remodeling. They knocking it down, and they kind of remodeling. I think that's the Federal building.

MF: That's the other side.

GF: The other side. Well, that's quite a few years back. Then from there the business wasn't---as I say, it was those bad years. You know, Depression just about coming in. So he gave up and went to the Navy Yard.

GG: The Navy Yard. That was in the late twenties then?

GF: That was in the late twenties, yeah.

MF: Was later than that time.

GG: The Depression hit the Mainland in '29, and I guess was really here later than that.

GF: Yeah. Just before the... We got married on '29. And I remember he building that before I was married, Felix.

GG: Do you remember when he actually started his sausage business? We forgot to set a date.

GF: Yeah, well, I'd say was....I think was 1959 because 1954 he went away to Portugal.

GG: Oh, he didn't do it then real early time?

GF: No, no.

GG: Okay. And was he able---we talked about, you know, you can't get the blood here to make the blood sausage. Was he able to in those days?

GF: Yes. Really, oh yes.

GG: ...before they had a strict regulations?

GF: Yeah.

GG: Okay. Also, you mentioned Kumalae Block last time. What was that? I don't know.

GF: It was right across Magoon Block. And they use to have---it was the Kumalae Block where people use to live. It was a block where the people live. Hawaiians, mostly, use to live. Kumalae at one time was a big, man from the Hawaiian Islands. Was like King Kamehameha.. He was such a big man. Kumalae. He was some kind of a celebrity here. I don't know what kind. So they named that building Kumalae. And then in the bottom, they had....people use to all sit down out on the porch. All those people they're all kind of elderly. All used to sit down there. And the top were rooms. And in the back of that Kumalae Block was the poi factory. You know, that poi factory. You remember, Daddy?

MF: I don't remember that poi factory.

GF: Well, I remember that very well.

MF: On top was the bakery...

GF: No, the bakery is further down. I was talking to a lady the other day and she said, "Oh, don't forget to tell the lady about the poi factory in the back of Kumalae Block." I said, "Oh yes, how well I remember that poi factory." 'Cause we kids use to go buy ten cents poi.

GG: How much did you get?

GF: Oh, my goodness, you take the bowl, and they fill the bowl up. But then you had to come home...

MF: And what you pay today....

GF: Then we had to strain it.

MF: Chee, maybe about five cents of poi, for today, you would be paying about dollar and a quarter.

GG: Wow.

MF: Yeah. That much poi. You couldn't eat that. Was five cents. Five cents.

GF: I remember ten cents. When you were there, was five. But mine was ten cents. And then we had to come home and mix it.

MF: You have to strain it.

GF: But then now days you don't do that.

MF: You don't have to strain. That's why they so little. Me and my wife would buy half a dollar of poi---half a dollar, no? 55 cents, I think.

GF: Then with the Kumalae Block, as I said, so all the rallies were held at Kumalae Block.

GG: The political rallies?

GF: The political rallies were held in Kumalae Block. Of course, they use to go in--had a big porch, you know, and all the people use to sit and stand there. I mean, the politicians and all, they would gather all in the road. At that time not much cars. You all had to go out in the road and stand up and listen to the politicians. Then right across was the Magoon Block.

GG: And that had stores on the bottom then....

GF: No, no. Kumalae Block never had stores.

GG: No, I meant Magoon Block.

GF: Oh yeah. That was a treat for us we going down Magoon Block, because Magoon Block, had a market, had the grocery store, had the ice cream parlor. Oh, we use to love that ice cream parlor because they use to have the shaved ice, too. And then a little restaurant, meat market and furniture store and the barber shop. In other words, that was our little town. It was a big thing.

GG: And how far was that from where you live?

GF: Well, from my place, was about from here to little further down of the church.

MF: Yeah, little further down.

GG: So just about a block, then?

GF: Well, about two blocks.

GG: And when you were young now, say 10, 11, 12 years old, could you go there anytime you wanted or did you have to get permission from your mother...

GF: Oh, no, we'd never go there without permission. We'd never leave the house in any shape or form without telling my mother.

GG: But would they give you permission to go with your friend or....

GF: No, no, no. We never would go with friends either. We went with my sisters. We never went alone, you know. Well, we use to go alone, but if we had to go to the store, Mama would send us to the store alone. We had to go to the meat market. Every Sunday, there was a same thing everytime. We go to the meat market and buy roast. We'd tell the man just what kind of roast. Mama would make her roast every Sunday and a soup bone. That was our---every Sunday we'd go down to the market. Every Saturday, rather. Go down there and buy the roast meat and the soup bone for the dinner. But if we were going to the ice cream parlor, like that, two of us would go. You know. We'd say, "Can we go and buy ice cream?" or something like that. We'd ask her. Then we'd go and then come home. And lot of times we went with Mama. Mama always went with us, too.

GG: So she did her shopping there?

GF: Yes, she did all her shopping, almost all her shopping.

MF: At Magoon Block?

GF: Yes. But her grocery shopping, the meat now. But then her grocery shopping---we had an old Centeio Store that use to be

up here that we use to buy---they use to come around the doors and take the orders on Tuesday, and bring the order on Wednesday.

GG: Oh, he would go to your house then? Take orders?

GF: Yeah, take the orders, and then the orders would come the next day.

GG: Was he a Portuguese man?

GF: Yes, Portuguese. The Centeio boys are well educated. And they married real good, too. You know, down here. They the dark Portuguese people.

GG: Yeah. Somebody out in Waialua, I think, has told us they were black people. Or that they were Puerto Ricans. And then somebody else had told us they were Portuguese, so I wasn't sure.

GF: No, they not exactly Portuguese. My father always did say that there isn't a black Portuguese.

MF: There isn't a black.

GF: And he can't stand when people say a black Portuguese. But there's no such thing. My father said that years before when they were punished, they did some kind of crime or anything like that in Portugal, they were sent to this island.

MF: Africa.

GF: Africa. And then lot of them, when they got through with their sentence, they would marry into that family. And naturally, got to be....

MF: Mixed up.

GF: Mixed up with the Negroes. But there's no such thing, my father always said there's no such thing as dark Portuguese.

MF: Portuguese are white people.

GG: Well, it's interesting, too. A friend of mine that lives on the East Coast said that so many of the Portuguese people in the Massachusetts area are so dark, and they didn't know that Portuguese people were light people because evidently they're quite dark in the Boston area.

GF: Yeah. But that's how it happened. And then my father said, too, they use to go to Africa sometime to work for there wasn't enough jobs in Portugal. And then they use to go there to work. Then send the money home to their family. But lot of them never came home either. They still there.

GG: Now did your father send money back to his family in Portugal?

GF: Oh yes. He use to send money back to his family.

GG: Now going back to Kumalae Block, it was two-story?

GF: Yes, two-story.

GG: Did it cover a whole, like, block area?

GF: Yeah. A whole block.

GG: Or was there a courtyard in the middle?

GF: In the back.

MF: Yeah, one small yard.

GF: In the back.

GG: I see. Was there anything else back there besides the poi factory?

GF: No, no. Not that I know. Wasn't nothing in the back there.

GG: And Hawaiians had the poi factory?

GF: Yes. No! Chinese. Chinese had poi factory. Was no Hawaiian. Hawaiians never had much anyway in the line of work. They hardly worked.

GG: Okay. Let's see now. You mentioned your mother had a friend who lived in Squattersville. Do you know what her husband did or what kind of work did the people, some of the people that lived in Squattersville...

GF: Oh, he worked in the Navy Yard. And she was a Hawaiian woman that just stood home and took care kids. She had kids, about a dozen. But what a very, very clean woman. It was an old house that he made it himself. But I remember so distinctly that we use to go with Mama and was so clean. You know that floor, was ground and yet was always very neat. And Mama always admired that woman for that, you know, with all her children. She kept the place really nice. Being Hawaiian, too, you know. She was Hawaiian, and he was the dark Portuguese.

GG: (Laughs) When you folks were growing up, now, did you have special chores that you had to do at home or....

GF: Oh yeah. Sure.

GG: What kind of things?

GF: We never would do any washing---we had to do all of our chores before we went to school. My job was to sweep and mop all the house. And my sister's was to wash the dishes and would clean the table and take turns. And Mama made the beds. She wouldn't let us touch the bed.

GG: Do you know why that was?

GF: Well, to them is sacred, the beds, at that time.

GG: Was that Portuguese custom or...

GF: Yeah. Mama never allowed us to make the beds. And anyway, she use to air the beds. Open the windows, put the pillow cases out of the window, and put the blankets and sheets over the window while she went and do something else. Then she came back and made the beds.

GG: Did she do this everyday then or....

GF: Yes.

GG: What about in terms of now what kind of foods did you---you mentioned the roast every Sunday. What other kinds of...

GF: Well, and every Saturday was stew. I remember having meat one time during the week. But except Saturday was stew, Sunday was roast meat. In fact, while--my husband was courting me, every Sunday, he use to come over, he had roast beef. And Daddy...
(Laughs)

MF: Yeah, every Sunday.

GF: Then one day was soup. But we had no choice. Whether we liked it or not, we had to eat it. One day was soup. And I don't remember even eating hamburger. No, never.

We never ate meat at home. We never. Was soup one day. The next day was codfish gravy or something like that. Or corn beef gravy or salmon gravy or tortas--tortas means croquettes, you know. Or canned stuff. Was all canned stuff, outside of soup. 'Cause there was no meat.

GG: Did you help with the cooking when you were young?

GF: No. We couldn't touch the kitchen. We couldn't touch the kitchen and the clothes. Washing. And, as I said, the beds. But we use to--Mama use to make bread, too. The only thing we had to do was wash the pans. When came my turn to wash my pans, I could fling the pans. Up until today I hate to wash pans.

(Laughter)

GF: Those bread pans, you know, all that (gooey stuff).

MF: Your mother use to make breads?

GF: Mama? Oh yes. Mama made a lot of baking.

MF: Oh yeah, she had the oven outside.

GG: Did your father build the oven for her?

GF: Yes, my father built the oven for her, brick oven.

GG: Did she make like one week's bread at a time or....

GF: Yeah.

GG: And did she make Portuguese sweetbread or was there another kind, too?

GF: Just ordinary white bread and sweet bread at Easter and Christmas, holidays like that, she use to make the sweetbread.

GG: Are you familiar with a term that's, I think it's called pao tijolo. or something like that?

MF: Pao tijolo.

GF: That's bread made in the oven outside. Pao tijolo. Cooked outside in the brick oven.

GG: That refers to any kind of bread then?

GF: Any kind of bread, uh huh.

GG: Okay. 'Cause somebody in the Waialua project had used that term, and we couldn't find out from anybody what it was.

GF: Pao tijolo. Pao tijolo means bread made in the oven.

GG: Somebody told us they thought it meant like spoon bread or dough that was left over or something like that, so I don't know. But I was just curious. When you were a teenager, okay, you went through ninth grade at McKinley, right? And then what did you do after you got out of school or how did you decide to quit school?

GF: I quit school because, you see, we had to be buying books, and Mama couldn't afford it. And I dreaded when came time to go to school because we all had to buy books. And then Mama never had any money. As I told you in the beginning that my mother took care of all the money. You see. And my father was furious about it, that everytime that bill wasn't paid or stuff he didn't know. She had no control over the money, see. And so when it came time to (buy my books there was no money).

MF: That's why, she was drinking wine, though, right. She used to buy wine all the time.

GF: Yeah, see. She had some friends that she use to go and they use to drink wine and stuff like that. But we never did see her drunk or anything. But she used to drink a lot of wine. My father, he was never a drinking man. Never, never. So he said that he was going to put a stop to it, and he was going to control the money then.

GG: So when you stopped school, what did you do then?

GF: I just stayed home. Oh, I worked one year in the laundry. I went one year in Young's Laundry. One year 'cause I didn't have an education, you know. So I worked one year.

GG: What did you do there?

GF: Oh, was something to do with folding clothes. And I was so disappointed because I always wanted an education. And so my father didn't know that I wasn't going to school. When I told my mother, I said, "I have to take the money today to school for the books, Ma."

And she said, "Well, if I haven't got the money, what I going to do?"

I said, "Look Ma, all the other kids took their money. I'm the only one that didn't take the money." And you know, had lot of Japanese. We had lot of Japanese in my class. So everybody took the money except me. I was tired of giving excuses. I said, "Well, okay, if you're not giving me any money, I'm not going to school tomorrow. I'm ashamed already for telling them that I don't have any money." But in this day and age, if you can't afford it, they'll help you but not at that time. At those days.

GG: Well, that's what I was going to ask. There weren't any societies or other....

GF: No, no, no. There wasn't any. And even they would have, I don't think my father would allow anything like that. I don't remember that school helping. Well....you see, when I went to school, I was underweight all the time. Very, very underweight. I had the red card all the time. You know when we went school, red card, white card, and blue card. The white card, you was okay. The blue card, you was between underweight and not. You be happy medium, anyway. Well, I never had a white card. I never had a blue card. I was always a red card. So all these kids that couldn't afford that would go and they would give us cod liver oil. And you know what they use to do? I can never forget this. They use to get a spoon and pour it in like that, and then give it to you. Then they pour 'em again, and give it to the next person. Little things like that, you can't forget.

MF: With the same spoon.

GF: Yeah.

GG: This was the school health program?

GF: Yeah, yeah. Whoever couldn't afford it, they would do that. I was one of them. So then I have to take milk. That's another thing. We have to take milk in school everyday, because I was underweight. All the ones that was overweight, and my mother would---every Monday I had to take 30 cents. Was only five cents a day. But---25 cents was for the milk a week, and five cents for the cookies. We had two graham crackers with our milk. I use to love those graham crackers, because we never had those things at home. No such thing as cookies. Then on Fridays, teacher would say, "Don't forget your milk money Monday." Come Monday. I remember. I had to bring it.

She said, "Oh, I have no money." Well, I'll bring it at lunch time. We use to go home for lunch, and go back.

I said, "Ma, I'm going to take the money for my milk."

She says, "Well, I haven't got the money. How you going to take the money?"

Okay, I go back to school, I say, "I forgot the money." The next morning again, I say, "Ma, I want the money for school, for milk." I was so ashamed, you know that the teacher would ask me all the time for the money, and I never had any money to give. So that went on and on. And then for the books, that was the last straw. She could not give me thirty cents, worst off give me money to buy the books.

GG: How did your father react?

GF: Well, about two months I was away from school when my father finally found out that I didn't go to school, and he was angry. He said, "How come you're not going to school?"

I told him the truth. I said, "Because Mama didn't have any money to buy my books, to give me to pay the books, so I didn't go."

So he got angry with my mother. He said, "I wanted my Gloria to get an education." But that was it, see. That's how it was those days. Very poor.

GG: When you were that age, now, what kinds of things did you do for recreation or fun?

GF: Oh, we use to go to dances. My mother, of course, went with us. My sister, because I had an older sister, and two younger sisters. They use to have dances in the clubhouse, not far away from our house. And we use to go. The boys play music. We use to go and dance there. And then, as I say, we use to go on picnics. We went on picnics all the time.

GG: Where you went dancing, was that for the community or....

GF: Yes.

GG: And boys and girls from all ethnic groups came together there or....

GF: Yeah, yeah, yeah. All ethnic groups. Wasn't any particular group. You know, was everybody. All from, right from the community right there.

GG: And the people that played music, were they from the community, too?

GF: Yes, yes, yes. They were right from the community there.

GG: And where was the place where they had it?

GF: At Kewalo Clubhouse. It was on Ilaniwai Street.

GG: That's where they also had Navy dances?

GF: Yes, yes. And that's where they had the boys. During the day, they use to go and take them boxing lessons. All the boys that from the Kakaako district had a boxing club that they use to go there and train.

GG: Was there another place? Kawaiahao?

GF: Kawaiahao. There's another place where they.... Oh, Kewalo was first. You don't remember who was the trainer, do you?

GF: Oh, yeah, Mr. Huihui. His sons got all boxers?

GG: And then later on, was it at Kawaiahao?

GF: Kawaiahao.

GG: There was a Japanese fellow? Kitagawa, is that who it was?

GF: No, that, I don't know. No, that wasn't my district already. Was more way down the other side.

GG: And how did you folks celebrate holidays? And which holidays did you celebrate?

GF: Well, just stay home, and we would have a visit. You know, visit different friends which was very nice, compared to now. You could go to one another's house and visit. It was right in the neighborhood. You go and visit one another. And that's the only time we could have oranges and apples. My father would come home with apples and oranges. That was on Christmas. Outside of that we never had anything like that. We had bananas. Mama use to buy bananas, but no other kind of fruit. Well, papayas, of course. They grow in the yard. But nothing, no apples, no oranges, you know, that was bought.

GG: Did you have any special clothes or exchange little gifts or things like that at Christmas time, too?

GF: No. We never had any gifts.

GG: What about Christmas trees. Did you have...

GF: Yeah, we had Christmas tree. Christmas tree, we had.

GG: Where did you get them, or what kind of trees did you have or....

GF: They bought the trees. But it wasn't expensive before. You could buy a tree, I think, for 75 cents.

GG: Did you make ornaments or decorations or....

GF: Yeah, we made popcorn, string popcorn, and put on. And we had little candle. You know, what I can't see before. We had little candles, you know, real candles, now. Almost like birthday candles but bigger than that, and they use to pin 'em on the groove there, andpin it on the tree. And could light. We'd light it. We'd light it!

GG: I know! And they didn't burn.

MF: But that's dangerous.

GF: And it didn't burn!

GG: Yeah, right. Really scary, though.

(Laughter)

GG: And then did you go to church that day, at midnight Mass or....

GF: Ah, yeah, we went to midnight Mass, but, you know, Mama never went to Mass. But all us kids went. And we went to Catechism.

GG: Did your father go to church?

GF: No, not even my father.

GG: Gee, that's interesting, then. Just the kids did.

GF: Uh huh. The both of them never went. But my mother sent all of us. We all went. In fact, that's how I met my husband. In church.

GG: That's what I'm getting to next is how the two of you met each other, and....

GF: At church, at church. And we went to church. They use to have dances in the church, too. The boys used to have some music, and we use to go there, and dance. And we use to have little plays that we made. You know the sodality made.

GG: What kind of plays, do you remember?

GF: What kind of play it was, now, I don't know. But I remember being in so many plays. It was small like....

GG: Little pageants?

GF: Yeah, little pageant. Yeah. Catholic kind of stuff. That was something to do with the church, anyway. But I remember being in quite a few of that.

GG: So how old were you when you met him?

GF: 12.

GG: Oh, young yet.

GF: I was still going to grammar school when I met him.

GG: At church?

GF: Mhm. 12, 13, 14, 15. I got married when I was 16 years old. But we always met at church, because we couldn't go anywhere else alone! You know. I couldn't go anywhere, but I could go alone to Mass.

GG: Then how did you finally decide to get married?

GF: Well, my father was very, very much against it. Not only because I was too young, but at that time, my mother-in-law was divorced from her husband, my husband's father. And, you know, it's a disgrace at that time when you divorce, so my father said, "Oh no. I don't want anything to do with that kind of family." He said, "That's divorce, and all that." But of course, he use to come around every Sunday. He was there every Sunday, with us girls. And he was very... (Laughs) He never did anything he shouldn't do. You know, he was nice, very nice. Mama like him very much. My mother liked him very much. And because he was respectable, you know. With us girls

and all around. We had one brother, too. And then we use to have lot of boys from the neighborhood come to my mother's house because us girls. Then Mama use to sit down with them on the living room, on the porch with all of us in the evening. The boys used to come and sit down with us, because my mother was a happy-go-lucky woman. You know. And Mama use to sit down with us in the porch at night with all the boys. And then they go home. But we were in the house. We were in the porch. We weren't allowed to go out.

GG: What did you do on the porch?

GF: We just talk stories. That's all.

MF: Those days, no more television and all. We had a hard time to get a radio. You had to be pretty well off to get a radio.

GF: And then they would bring a little ukulele, and we would sing. My mother use to---she could sing very well. And she would sing with us, you know.

GG: What kind of songs did you sing?

GF: Oh, Hawaiian songs, and this Hawaiian songs and....oh, like, oh my goodness. All the songs I have written there. I just bought the new book with all the old songs. My mother, while she was washing clothes, she was singing. While she was baking, she was singing. Washing dishes, she was singing. You know, she always use to sing. And she use to sing this latest song. The latest songs.

GG: Of that period?

GF: Of that period, yeah.

GG: And when she washed clothes, now, how did she do it? With a washboard?

GF: Washboard and then boil it outside, and...

MF: Boil the sheets.

GF: Boil everything, and then take the stick and pull it out of the pan. Lot of times she use to get burn from the hot boiling water. The water splash on her. Then she put 'em in the pan, then bring it down underneath the house, and washing, and singing at the same time. And the clothes use to smell so good, you know.

GG: Then did they hang 'em outside?

GF: Yeah, then they hung it outside. And then we use to iron. My sisters and I.

MF: No more washing machine, eh, those days.

GF: We never did the good wash. We never did the good ironing. Mama did the good ironing. We did any old way, you know, any kind.

GG: Did you have special clothes that you wore to church on Sunday?

GF: Yeah, and special clothes for school. Mama was a dressmaker. I wouldn't say a dressmaker, but she could sew well. So she use to sew all our clothes. And I'm the only one that follows her. The rest of them no.

GG: Did she get her material at, like, Magoon Block, or....

GF: No, no. She got it at Liberty House, do you mind? (Fancy, no?) And Yat Loy. Liberty House, at that time, was the only place you can get material, Liberty House and Yat Loy, and Leong Cheu Store on Nuuanu Street.

GG: Where was Liberty House?

GF: Liberty House is where it is now.

GG: Oh, I see. But did they have a warehouse in Kakaako or did that come later?

GF: No, no, no. Later. Later. Was only that store. And then a block away down was Yat Loy in a corner. That was material, too. And then further down Nuuanu Street, they had another one named Leong Chu. But that was later. But everytime she go Liberty House. And then was dollar days. At that time was dollar days. And everytime you buy anything for a dollar, over a dollar, you have a balloon. And we use to be so excited when Mama's going downtown. "Today she's going to bring us balloon."

(MF laughs)

GG: How old were you?

GF: Oh, we were about ten years old. And, "What, you going to bring us a balloon today?" And she'd come home with nice material she would buy. Used to be three yards for dollar at that time. Never mind what it was, 'cause that's dollar sale. Three yards for dollar. She would go nearly every Monday.

GG: Did she talk Portuguese to you at all at home?

GF: Yeah, she did. She talked Portuguese, and she talked English, too. But she'd speak mostly in English. But little words she would put in between, Portuguese. Even once in a while I do the same here when I'm talking to my kids. And they say, "What did you say?"

GG: (Laughs) Were there customs that she kept, you know, continuing old Portuguese customs that maybe her parents handed down or.... like the one, I think, of there's a certain thing that you say to your children when they go to bed.

GF: Oh yes, yes, yes. When we go to say, "Mama sua abençoe*" And she say, "Deus vos abençoe." "God bless you." "Deus vos abençoe." And when we would meet my grandma, we'll say, "Vossa abençoa." And my grandma would say, "Deus vos abençoe." And then when we meet my mother early in the morning, we had to say, "Mama sua abençoe." Then she would say, "Deus vos abençoe." "God bless you."

GG: What you said to her meant "Good morning?"

MF: "God bless me."

GF: I would say, "Mama, sua abençoe." "Ma, bless me." "Mama, sua abençoe." And she said, "Deus vos abençoe." And say, "God bless you." That's how it is. Then we would talk to her on the phone, I would say, "Ma, sua abençoe." She would answer, see. And lot of times when you call and when she call you and you say, "What?" Beware.

MF: You can't say, "What."

GF: You cannot say, "What." You say, "Senhora." "Senhora." If my father would call us, we say, "Senhor." That was the tradition. Wouldn't say, "What? What do you want?" Oh, we get our mouth busted, I think, if we do that.

(GG laughs)

GF: That was little things that was really nice. You respect, you know. And then we couldn't call a lady, my mother's friends, by their first name. We use to say, like, my mother had a good friend, Robello. Like we use to call, "Tia." "Aunt," you know. "Tia Maria" or "Tia Jacinto" or something like that. You know, we had to put the "Tia" in the front, you know. To kind of respect. But people little, kind of young, then we would say, "Mrs. Robello." We couldn't say, "Mary," or something like that. We had to address her....and Mama use to scold us. "You should never, never call any other lady person by their first name." You know. So we always call by their last name or "Tia" this or "Tia" that, you know.

GG: What about if it was like a man that was older?

GF: "Senhor."

MF: "Senhor."

GG: What does that mean? Does that mean "Mister?"

*This and other underlined phrases on this page are used in greeting.

GF: "Mister."

GG: But there wasn't an equivalent of "Tia" for "Uncle."

GF: No. "Titi." "Tia," that's "Aunty." And "Titi," that's "Uncle."

MF: "Uncle."

GG: I see. Were there other little customs that carried on? Did you folks have to say prayers at night or....

GF: No. No. Mama always said prayers in Portuguese herself. But she never told us or showed us how which I regret today. And Mama and Papa always said Portuguese prayers. But they never put it down on us. I wish they would. Now, because I belong to quite a few of Portuguese clubs, that I'd give anything to start the prayer in Portuguese. They want the prayer in Portuguese. And I don't know. I never learned it. We prayed alone by ourselves.

MF: I know "Our Father." I know the "Our Father." Just a few that'sand the "Hail Mary." "Our Lady of Saint Grace---" [Said in Portuguese] The rest, I don't know.

GF: Forgot, see.

MF: My father taught us when we was kids.

GF: No, my mother never taught us.

MF: My brother Manuel, all his prayers was all in Portuguese. The "Apostle Creed." "The Apostle Creed," "Our Father," and "Hail Mary."

GF: Yeah, there was quite a bit of tradition handed down to us. But we ignored a lot of that things. That I only hope that we would--like the Portuguese, they very religious. But even though Mama didn't go to church. But whatever they said and did was the word of God. For instance, they said, "I'm going over there, and don't forget to do this. I be right back." "Se Deus quizer."

That means, "se Deus quizer." "God permits." You know. So, "I see you tomorrow, se Deus quizer." Always that word of God inside. And to us, it was nothing. But I hope, that little things like that I'd learn....everything was the word of God in their mouths.

GG: What about the eating customs?

GF: Well, nobody ate unless my father sat down on the table to eat. Nobody would eat. My father would come home late, he'd work overtime, nobody ate until he sat on the table and ate. And there was nobody talking when we ate. Nobody talks. But now days, boy, kids talk over the father and the mothers. And we never chose...

MF: "I don't want this," or "I don't want that."

GF: We never chose the food. Whatever was on the table, we had to eat, and if we never ate, that was it.

GG: Did you eat foods from other nationalities too?

GF: No, never.

GG: Mostly just Portuguese?

GF: Just Portuguese.

GG: Codfish and a lot of soup, and....

GF: Codfish and soup, and canned salmon, canned pork and beans, and canned this and canned that. And then even up today I can't stand canned stuff. And he knows it, too.

(GG laughs)

MF: I like canned stuff sometimes.

GG: Okay, so tell me more about how the two of you got together and got married. And were there Portuguese customs around that?

GF: Well, I wouldn't say Portuguese customs. We went together for some time.

MF: I ask you to get married.

GF: And I didn't want get married.

MF: She didn't want. Then I talk to her again, then talk to her, and she says, "All right."

GF: And he told me he wanted to run away. Run away! That was a dirty word. You know, you couldn't do those things. Run away. Because

my father didn't like him. And then my father couldn't see me getting married that age, so he said, "Well, you know, if you go with me one day, man, your father will never take you back home." I was angry. I didn't like he saying that. So anyway, we still kept seeing one another. And my mother knew that we were going together.

MF: I asked the mother first.

GF: Asked my mother first.

MF: That I want to marry her. But I had to talk to the mother first, see. And then the mother would tell the father, see. So I guess he knew. So one night, actually, I was going to ask the father to get married, and I tell you, that's not easy.

(Laughter)

MF: That wasn't easy.

GF: I was so mad. I said, "You go home. Go home." He wouldn't go home. He just sit there.

MF: She was hide herself inside the room. You know. And I stood there, and I stood there, and was kind of getting late. About 10:00 or 10:30, and then I finally came out and I said that I wanted to get married to your daughter. Hoo, he blew his top. He says, "What! You know I don't like your family and all this, that."

GF: "Can you support my daughter?"

MF: "Can you support my daughter?" And I says, "Yes."

GF: He said, "If I couldn't support her, I wouldn't come and ask you."

MF: I was only making \$18 a week, that time.

GG: You were working at the laundry then?

MF: Yeah.

GG: Which laundry?

MF: Young's.

GG: Is that the one that Magoon owned?

MF: Alexander and Young, those days. But now it's all bust up. They sold it.

GG: What did you do at the laundry? What was your job?

MF: It's...

Dry cleaner. I use to dye clothes, I use to spot clothes, I use to wash clothes. All that. I use to do.

GF: He never been one day without a job. Even Depression time.

MF: Since I got married, I worked all through Depression which was no work at all. When I got married then, I told my boss that...

...I getting married.

GF: He give you two dollars more.

MF: I want a little raise. So he says, "Well, okay. I'll give you \$21.50." A week.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MF: And I never forget that day. Was on Labor Day in 1926. I worked there. And from that time on, I work until 1971.

GF: For the same company.

MF: Same company. I never did quit my job.

GF: And then although he just a laundry man, but we never bothered my mother for a nickel, and we struggled. We raise four children. Of course I had to go to work because I had vowed I wasn't going to send those kids to a public school, not go through what I went through, and I was going to give them everything that I never had, and that's just what I did. All them, had a good education. Whatever they wanted, they had. I never spoiled them anyway. And I used to sew a lot, so they use to be dressed very nice. They went neatly all the time. In fact, even up till this day, the Sisters--I work for those nuns, and my three girls use to have uniforms, and they said my girls were the neatest girls that went to school. Because my husband did their skirts. They had the pleated skirts.

GG: At the laundry?

GF: Yeah, at the laundry. So they was always dry cleaned those skirts.

MF: Everything was neat.

GF: Each one had two skirts. He would take one batch one week. The next

week, he would take the other other batch, the three. But I had 15 blouses a week. I use to wash and iron those 15. Now is wash and wear. These kids have it made.

MF: 1927 then when I told the old man, "Well, I want to marry your daughter." See, he got mad, and talk this and that. Then he said, "Did the girl tell you she love you?" I said, "Yeah." I said, "Yeah."

GF: Then they called me inside.

(Laughter)

GF: Oh, I could kill!

MF: You know, she had the ears plugged, and the father was calling her inside the room, you know. And she couldn't hear because she had it plugged.

GG: You're trying to plug out the explosion, right?

(Laughter)

GF: Yeah, yeah.

MF: Then she finally heard him calling to her come here. "Do you love this man to marry?" Then she had to say yes, otherwise we wouldn't be married today.

(Laughter)

MF: Then he said, "Well, you want to get married to her, you can go and get married anytime you want."

GF: But do you remember what he said, too?

MF: What he said?

GF: "I don't want your skunking family in that wedding." Just like that, you see. Very, very rude to say something like that, too. But as I say, they were very much against the divorces, you know. But his mother came.

MF: My mother came. That's the only one I had, my mother.

GF: Your brother.

MF: I don't think my brother came.

GF: I don't think your brother came, no. Then we had Mama make a big reception. In the house. At that time was right at the house, you know.

GG: You got married at St. Agnes?

GF: St. Agnes, yeah.

GG: In those days, did they have nuptial Mass or you had just the regular Mass?

GF: No, no, no. No, I got married in the evening. But a week after, we went for our blessing during Mass. But now, they have it Mass, which is nice. But at that time, when I got married, was in the evening, and then we went back for one Mass, one morning Mass, and got the blessing.

GG: How long from when your father agreed to when you got...

GF: Oh, six months. January, and we got married in June.

GG: Was that a custom? How did you happen to decide on six months or...

GF: Yeah. Well, six months, oh, that time was six months. I don't know, everybody else was six months. Some was a year. But the least was six months. Then, of course, because I had to get Mama prepared by making all---you know, the Portuguese start to make crochet, and start their doilies, and crochet pillowcases, and all the dresses. And Mama was a good dressmaker. She made me a beautiful satin spread. And the curtains to match. And she was good, my mother, in sewing. I never forget that. So we went to live alone, and then somebody went in---the day of the wedding, they went to my house, and they put a doll on top of the bed, and they put a baby bottle, and they put some milk in the baby bottle. And the nipple, was had a hole in it. And dripped all the milk. And the stain never came out of the spread as much as we tried, because it dried on. And we couldn't get the spread. We couldn't get the...

MF: It's just like blood, eh.

GF: Just like blood. It just get right in that spread. And I was so disappointed about that, too. Because Mama made it.

MF: Oh, what they did to us. That night, oh man.

GG: What did they do?

GF: When we went home...

MF: They had the string. They had the string, and they had one can, one kerosene can. And they tie the thing up, and they run it to the attic up outside to the window and all that stuff. So everytime we close the light to go to bed, they started, too, and pounding, and, you know, and with that can making that noise, in the attic.

GF: We didn't know where that noise was coming from.

MF: And I got mad like anything.

(Laughter)

GF: And you know, the stove, that time was oil stove.

MF: And they put that...

GF: They put the stove in the living room. They put the---all the groceries on top the bed. They went in my drawer and took up my underclothes, and his underclothes and spread 'em all on top of the bed on the top, on the post, on the bed. And then they brought like the big cake. The cake that we had. Was a cake?

MF: They put it in the parlor. Right on the parlor floor.

GG: This was while you were getting married? Friends?

GF: Yeah. They came over. Yeah.

MF: No, we were married now.

GF: No, we weren't married---I mean, but we never went over the house.

MF: No, no, no. We didn't go to the house.

GF: Well, while we were getting married, they were doing that.

MF: They was doing all that trouble.

(Laughter)

GF: What a mess. But the people said they'll never forget that night that we got married, because they had so much fun, what they did to the house. And then in the back of my car when we went home, they put "Just Married" and all kind of tin cans. Uh huh. And there was this tin cans in the back of the car, making so much noise wherever we went. But then the string broke about four o' clock. They were trying to get the other piece of string, you know, to mend, because the string had broke. And I'm telling, it was lot of noise. Wasn't only that can, Felix.

MF: I don't know what it was.

GF: And they were pushing, and pushing. Just like it was thunder on the roof. And I got so mad that I swore even. I was so mad. Honestly, because, gee, it just went on and on. We could hear all of them outside, we could hear the noise.

MF: Could hear them running around.

GF: Running around, trying to put that string together, and....

(MF laughs)

GG: Where was this house that you were in?

GF: Well, it was my mother's house, and then the Mormon church, and then my house. At that time, the rent, we was paying \$25 a month. Just like one pay day, eh, went for the rent, see. And just like nowadays, eh, the one payday go to the rent.

MF: Must have been \$18, eh?

GF: No, \$25.

MF: That's right.

GG: What street was the...

GF: Ilaniwai Street. Now, that days, you could find a house anywhere. Was cheap. No more money. People didn't have money that they would go live with one another, you know. Because...

MF: You buy a place. You could buy a house and lot for \$4,000, if we had the money, those days. Now you cannot buy less than \$50,000.

GF: But I never got to own anything, because, as I said, my husband's just a laundryman. He never made much. Then in order to get all the incidentals for my kids, I went to work. Then after my baby, my youngest one was kindergarten age, then my oldest girl was old enough to take care the youngest when she went to kindergarten. They all went to the same school, St. Augustine at Waikiki.

GG: How did they get to school?

GF: The bus. They would go to school on the bus. The oldest girl would take the youngest one. And the oldest boy use to go to St. Louis. And the other three of them went to Maryknoll. St. Augustine.

GG: So when was it that you went to work?

GF: I went to work war time. During the war. The oldest one went to school, the two oldest---the three went to school. The baby, she was about four years old. I use to go and clean apartments, from bachelors. These defense workers. I use to go and clean.

MF: Work hard. Work hard.

GF: I worked hard. Sometimes would work, clean two, three apartments. But my baby was with me. I didn't want to neglect her in any way, see. So then when she went to school--that was the baby. So then she was old enough to go to school, then I went to work full time. 'Cause the oldest sister took care of her.

GG: And where did you go to work then?

GF: I went to work at....now where did I work?

GG: Was at Queen's Hospital? Was that the one?

GF: No, the Queen's Hospital was later. Sixty something.

MF: You work over to the factory, one time, yeah?

GF: Yeah, I work for the potato chip factory.

GG: In Kakaako?

GF: In Kakaako. I work for the Mendonca Candy Factory. I worked babysitting, everyday, and clean house everyday. Babysit and clean house everyday. That was a steady job. You know, I would make good money. I was taking care of this lady. Then she had lot of money, so I was taking care of her children, take them to school. And while she just went galavanting around. And I took care of her kids. In fact, not long ago, I was on the Mainland, and I made an attempt to see them. Because I brought the little baby boy up. And you got to love those kids, too. He's now a paramedic, what you call from the fire department? He is now in Los Angeles. And I remember him as a baby, changing his diapers, you know. For quite a few years, I worked for that lady. But then, when I wasn't working, I was....I use to go babysit different houses at night, you know. Then I went to work steady at....Honolulu Paper Company.

GG: And what did you do there?

GF: I was in charge of the kitchen. I worked in their kitchen, their coffee shop. I was managing their coffee shop.

GG: What did you do at the potato chip factory?

GF: We bagged potato chips. (Laughs) It was so that I took my baby with me in the potato chip factor. Because when she was going to school, a half of the day---you know, the Catholic school is only half-day kindergarten. So I use to go and meet her and bring her with me. At that time you could do that, because was war time. They let you take your kids. In fact, they would even have little playgrounds for the little kids. Somebody take care the kids because the mothers couldn't go to work because of the kids. But they no manpower,

they had to have women, see. So then, I use to buy color crayons and put her in the office. And here she was coloring while I work, keep on working the rest of the day.

GG: The potato chip factory, where is it?

GF: Right in the back. In Waimanu. Was Waimanu or Kamani Street? Waimanu Street?

MF: Waimanu.

GF: Waimanu Street, right in the back where my husband use to work, in the back there.

MF: I use to work right close to the bags.

GF: So we use to bag the potato chip.

MF: So I use to walk to work, would come home---I could come home, even lunch.

GF: So we use to bag the potato chip, weight it, and bag it. But there was people--different fellows did different things. Like I bagged it. We weighed it and we bagged it, you know. And then you could eat all the potato chips you want. And there was a time that I couldn't see a potato chip. You could bring home as much as you want. I'd bring home bags for the kids until the end. My daughter was saying the other day, "Ma, remember, you couldn't see a potato chip square in the face." I said, "You ain't kidding." I remember that, too.

(Laughter)

GF: But that Mendonca factory, we went to work for the Mendonca factory.

GG: Where was it?

GF: That was little further up the road. Going up this way, now. It was Portuguese people. The Mendonca, they still got the Mendonca candy factory. Well, they was the worst people you could ever work for. They were so mean. They were so selfish that you couldn't breathe, I tell when they were around. Oh, I'm telling you, they were so strict. You couldn't put a piece of candy in your mouth. Now, if you would put a piece of candy in your mouth, you would get disgusted and you wouldn't sneak anything. You know, like the potato chip factory, they would let us eat so much--until you couldn't...

GG: Till you got sick of it.

GF: Sick of it. But then you could---if it was open, she tell you, "Open

your mouth, what you got in your mouth." The rooms is cold because the chocolate. And she had a hole in her office that can look in that room. From that hole, look into the other room, and that hole, look into the other room, and she could see what we were doing, see.

GG: Did you stay---what did you do at the candy...

GF: We....now what did I do at the candy factory? We pack, we put 'em in the boxes, pack it in the box. I never use to dip it. Because they got professionals to dip. I use to put 'em in the boxes, and we use to make little round balls, the coconut round balls. You know, put 'em in the red dye, in the red stuff. We use to make the coconut ourself. The men use to make, and we use to hurry up and make the thing fast. Roll 'em up little balls, fast with the hand. Was all hand work.

GG: Did you have to wear gloves to do it or...

GF: No, nothing like that. Just to have a head cover.

GG: And how many ladies worked there or....

GF: Oh, we had about six ladies. That's about it. But I couldn't stand---she would give me a nervous breakdown. I couldn't stand it. Because I love to work, but was too much. She was just behind of us, driving, driving. We just couldn't stay still for a minute. She was right there telling you, we had to do this, we do. "Come on, we have to get so many dozens out. This person is coming for this amount. This person is coming for this one." You just can do so much and that's all. And I was just getting....and then we use to work over time. Then Saturdays we have to work. And I didn't like work Saturdays, 'cause I didn't want to neglect my kids.

GG: Did you have to stand on your feet all day to do this?

GF: All day. And then you go to the bathroom. I didn't live far from my job. So I could come home for lunch everyday. And I never use to use the bathroom. Then she made all of us, each one of that use the bathroom, all of you, each one clean the bathroom everyday. So I said, "I'm not going to clean the bathroom, because I don't use the bathroom." And she said, "But even so, you're working here. You supposed to clean it." Said, "Well, you try and make me do it." I said, "I'm not cleaning no bathroom because I don't use it. I go home. I don't use here." "And then furthermore," she said, "furthermore, I don't see why you people use the bathroom. I've taught my kids that you can go eight hours without using the bathroom." That's the kind type of woman she was.

GG: Were there other employees, too? The dippers, and....

GF: Yes, there were other employees. Yeah, the dippers, and the ones that were boxing the stuff, and the ones that were making the candy. You know, they were making the coconut candy, and the chocolate, all the different chocolates. And the macadamia clusters. They were noted for the macadamian clusters. My baby, when she was, oh, I think, was five years old. She was going kindergarten. Was four years old. Kindergarten. Was her birthday on December the 3rd. And she had about 40 children in her class, and I bought 40 of those little peanut cluster bags. Each one had the little bag of peanut clusters. Was a treat, and besides, I had a birthday cake, and I send it to the class, and made Sister cut the cake and give them ice cream. She made five on December.

GG: How was the pay, then?

GF: The pay...no, they pay wasn't so good. That's why I left, too.

GG: How long did you work there?

GF: I work there about...

MF: Four months.

GF: No, more than that.

GG: What kind of hours did you have to work?

GF: Well, I start eight in the morning. They were lenient with me, too, because as I say, I had to go and get my baby. And when I quit the potato chip factory---I didn't like the potato chip factory, because the smell of the oil and stuff, so I left. And then this lady told me about Mendonca was looking for somebody. So I said, "Gee, that's just my line of work. I'd like to go to food, you know." So I went there. But I said, "Gee, I'd like to work here, but my little girl is going to school, and I have to pick her up at 11." Because she get through at 12, but I had to leave by 11, you see. So I'd leave by 11, get the bus, and pick my daughter, come back. Well, I couldn't take her to Mendonca's. They was really strict. So I would take her to Mama's. Because Mama used to live no far from me, see. So I take her to Mama. And then my oldest daughter when she come home from school, she would pick her up, and take her home. Then they would stay home. But the little girl, she use to get angry with me. She tell, "I can come home by myself! Don't pick me up!" I was afraid. I didn't want her crossing the street. That was over there in Kapiolani. She used to come down Kapiolani. And I was afraid. I said, "No, no, You stay right there until I pick up up. Don't come home."

GG: Did they have benefits over there, too, like, you know, if you got sick or....vacation or anything?

GF: No, nothing. Nothing.

GG: And this was right at the beginning of war time. Say 1941, '42?

GF: Yes. '41, '42.

GG: Do you remember, now, you were living in Kakaako already in 1920 too when they had the flu epidemic? Did anybody in your family get the flu, or do you remember?

GF: I remember. They had the flu, but I don't know nothing about our family died. I remember that my...

MF: Oh, I remember in Maui, they were dying like rats.

. Maui. And hospitals, we didn't know nothing.

GF: I remember the Queen's Hospital having tents outside in the yard, with the people. Tents. Put up with the sick people. That, I remember that well. And I remember that lady, that people that died with the flu. I remember that.

GG: Did you take any special precautions to keep from getting them?

GF: No, I don't remember, but I remember that so well. The Board of Health use to come put signs outside. "Measles in your house." Before. Or whooping cough. And then people couldn't go to your house.

GG: Sort of a quarantine kind of stuff.

GF: Quarantine, yeah.

MF: They don't do that now days.

GF: Do you remember that, Felix?

MF: No, I don't remember.

GG: Well, somebody mentioned that some people wore like camphor bags or mothball bags or something around their necks to help them keep from getting the flu.

GF: Well, I remember that, but I don't know about if it was....it's for the flu. But I remember little kids, they use to make a little bag and put little camphor in the thing with the little medal, and pin 'em on their clothes. Little camphor. Pin 'em on their clothes. The camphor.

GG: And what about the Pioneer Civic Club that you belong to? The Portuguese club? You said it was established about 40 years ago. When did you join it, or what do they do or....

GF: Well, it's more of a social club. It's chartered, though. Well; they interested in the culture of the Portuguese, and, arts and crafts. But more socialize things they do.

GG: How often do they get together?

GF: Once a month.

GG: And where do they meet?

GF: They meet at the St. Louis Alumni (Clubhouse). But they were kind of a well known organization. Lot of big functions---I mean, when some big shot that comes in from the Mainland, from Portugal or something like that, they call on them. Felix, John Felix calls on them to see that they are well taken care of. I mean, in the line of taking them here and there, and showing them different places, and bring them to the club, and introduce them to the members.

GG: Are they working to try and preserve the language? Like do people speak Portuguese at the club, or....

GF: No, I don't think so. Because, you see, it's so funny. Even though we Portuguese, they will not want to....better themselves to speak the language. They not interested in our language. Well, now I belong to this other Camois players, that, we trying to perpetuate the culture, and the language and the dancing and singing, and all those different things, you see. And we chartered, too.

GG: And how often do they get together?

GF: We get together once a month for meeting, but we get together every week for the dancing. And we have lot of functions that come in two or three times a week that we have to go to, you know.

GG: So where did they do the dancing, or is the Portuguese dancing?

GF: Mhm. Only Portuguese.

GG: Or the old, the folk dances from....

GF: Portugal?

GG: Who teaches them or....

GF: We have a lady that teaches us. Well, she's not from Portugal, but she's from Honokaa. And when she was a little girl, she learned all these dances. In fact, we had a Portuguese Chamarita club many, many years. About good twenty, about....oh my.

MF: More than that.

GF: Oh, no Felix. Well, about thirty years ago, we had a---they started a club called the Portuguese Chamarita Club, dancing, Portuguese dancing club, that my girls always used to---wanted to go and they got me involved. "Ma, we cannot go unless you go," so I joined the club with the girls.

GG: Was this in when, like maybe the forties?

GF: No. Yeah, yeah. Was in the forties.

MF: Forties. '46.

GG: After the war?

GF: After the ar, yeah. Was in the forties.

GG: And where did they get together?

GF: Like in the park over here. The park, they loan us. And then we paid, they have the Punchbowl Holy Ghost. They would lend us their place underneath. We pay rent to have our dancing there, and have all our props and stuff kept in one of their closets there.

GG: What kind of props did you use or....

GF: Well, like I mean our instruments, and our....our cups and saucers and the Christmas decorations, and little costumes that we needed and stuff like that. We kept all of that.

GG: Well, did they ever have....I've been to Chamarita a couple of times on the Mainland, but not over here. Did they have in Kakaako years ago when you were folks were growing up, did they ever have...

GF: No, not in the line of dancing. We use to play a lot of games in the Holy Ghost time, but no dancing. Dancing was haole dance. Was haole dance. Wasn't no Portuguese dance. The Portuguese dance now, it's only about thirty years old, I think.

MF: Older. Older than that.

GF: No, Pat was about 12, 13 years old, Felix, when we started.

MF: Oh, yeah. That's right.

GF: Then my second girl, she's....she fell in love with one of the musicians. And she got married with one of the musicians, Portuguese musicians.

GG: What all kinds of instruments did the Portuguese use?

GF: Oh, we had a accordion, guitar, mandolin. Ukulele. The bass.

GG: And what does "Camois" mean?

GF: Well, "Camois," that's where our problem is right now. We didn't have much say when this thing started. There was this fellow that he was born in Portugal. He went back to Portugal a few years back, and he remember--he says they is a famous poet by the name of Louis Camois. With a little tail on the top of the "o." Camois. And he's a famous poet in Portugal. And there is a beautiful statue in the Camo Square there with this statue. Louis Camois, you see, was a famous poet, and he wrote a lot of poems, a lot of little sayings. He's very well known in Portugal. So he felt that we should name this after Mr. Camois. But when he came back and said that, well, we never had much choice because we just started, and we were afraid to say anything. We didn't have too much to say. But now, when we putting two and two together, we figure that it's not a good name for our club. Because he was just a poet. He wasn't a singer or a dancer. He's just a poet. Now why should our club be named after him? Our club is a dancing club. Of course, have lot to do with culture too, and arts and stuff, you know, Portuguese things. But it's mostly for dancing so they should---and then people said when you tell, "Oh, the Camois place," they think we Filipino, the name Camois. Somebody said even it's commode. They make fun of us. So we went to a meeting Monday night, a board meeting. And we brought that up. Said, "I don't think that name is appropriate for that club, because it's a Portuguese club, and it should be Portuguese. Even a Portuguese Dancing Club or Portuguese Chamarita Club--"Charmarita" is Portuguese dancing--but not the Camois Players." But then it's chartered now by Camois Players. You know, we have to change the whole works.

GG: You mentioned earlier games at the Holy Ghost place. Now were those Portuguese kinds of games, or what brand of games are they?

GF: Yeah. Portuguese. Well, it was Portuguese and haole. But one game we used to play was Mentes Tu Estavas Tu. You know, "Mentes tu estavas tu na casa da Rosa (You are lying; where were you, I was at Rosa's house)." You know, in other words, they would play this game, and we call your name. And your name was the name "Rosie," for instance. And "Where were you?" And she said, "E tava na casa da Rosa (I was at Rosa's house)." And if your name was Rosa and you never answered, you were busy talking to somebody else, they would hit you. And then they start over again. Then they say, "Casa de Clovis (Clovis' house)," "...de Marigold (Marigold's)." Then, if she answer, "Mentes tu estavas tu na casa de Rosa (You are lying; where were you, I was at Rosa's house)." Now Rosa have to listen quick. You have to answer right away, you know. If she doesn't answer, and you hit her with a pillow, you know. And just goes on and on all evening. That's how---that's one of the games. Another one is the "married games." You would play---all the men would go in the back of the---they were single men, you see. All the boys used to go in the back of the building, and each one of us used to choose our---which man we going to take. Don't have to be your boyfriend, anybody. So he would come in, and he would choose. He would sit on the chair. She was standing, and he would sit on the chair. And if that wasn't the one she chose, you know---I don't know what she would say.

She would say something, and she would hit 'em, and he had to go--until he would go to almost every chair, and then till he'd find the right one. And they would hit him all the time, until he found the right one that this...you know. She would say something, now. I forgot what she would say. And that was another game, too. And then there was another one. "Hang, hang overhead, what shall this person do?" Said, "Fine or super fine." "Fine" was the male, and female was the "super fine." "Well, tell her to go and bark three times like a dog." And whoever that little gadget that he had over his head belongs to, some person that's in the thing that they had give, you see, or maybe the key chain belongs to the lady, then she had to go and bark three times like a dog, see. Then this person would get up and set 'em. Then the one, she would come here. The other one said, "Hang hang overhead. What shall this person do? Fine or super fine?" It was silly games, though, but we were young. You know, it was something that the boys and girls use to get into. And they had the "Ring game." One fellow would go--we have our hands like that. [Cupped together in front of you] And one fellow would go around with the ring in his hand, now. And he would go like this and this. [Put inside of each set of hands] But he would drop the ring in somebody's hand. But nobody would know who. Then he get up and he say, "Who's got the ring?" Said, "Gloria got the ring." And open my hand, I haven't got a ring, and he'd hit me. Hit me.

(GG laughs)

GF: Then she said, "Who got the rings?" Said, "Felix got the ring." Just went on and on until they got the right person---until the person got the right person. Then they stand up, and they went around. That's the games, like that we use to play.

GG: But these are games, like, that originated in the old country?

GF: Old country.

GG: And then people just brought them here?

GF: Brought them over. But we use to do 'em in English, because as I say, we never got to learn all this speaking well.

GG: What about the sports now? Were either of you active in sports? Did they have sports for girls at that time, or...

GF: No, as I say, we weren't allowed to go to the parks. No, was a dirty word. No, we couldn't go to the parks. But we used to play ball right outside the street. They didn't have any cars at that time. We use to play baseball in the street, you know. Right in our yard, we play steal eggs. You know, that kind steal eggs. You have three eggs over here and three eggs inside this round thing. And three persons here, three persons here. And he would go and try and steal

their eggs. And this one would come here, and try and go steal their eggs and bring 'em on this side.

GG: Were they real eggs or rocks?

GF: No, rocks. Was rock. We call that "steal egg."

(Laughter)

GF: And then use to have marbles. And we use to make a hole up against the wall in the dirt. And then you bet five marbles, I bet five, the other---everybody bet five. From over here, we would throw the marbles. After we throw the marbles, we'd try ini the hole with the finger like this. And whatever you ini that hole, you pick it up.

MF: You pick it up.

GF: Whatever in inside. If you never put one in, you out. Then you come back the other one, if she went one, well, she got that one, and she went one more, you know. Then if she put two inside, well, she would take the two. But if you never got any....we use to like that game. Because we use to trying to hit the marble.

MF: You remember that five holes? One, two, three, four, five holes. And then use to play...

GF: Oh yeah, yeah. Then we use to put that...

MF: You put 'em in the first hole, and then put second hole.

GF: First hole. We shoot the second hole and third hole. Was two people.

MF: If you put 'em in everytime, and you go out to the number four, come back, put 'em all, and then you come back home, and if you get that, you win.

GF: You win.

MF: Sometimes you miss.

GF: And we use to play peewee. You heard of "peewee"?

MF: Peewee. Yeah, peewee.

GG: Get sticks.

GF: We use to get the sticks.

MF: You remember that?

GG: No, but we've heard about it in Waialua, 'cause they use to play it out there all the time.

MF: Oh, yeah. That's was good fun. That was good.

GF: Yeah, the peewee. That was good. Then we use to go on the stilts. Was all our own. Then use to have rope, you know, rope. Even Sisters was telling us the other day. She said, these kids play different things than we do." I said, "Everything is bought."

GG: Yes. Where did you get your marbles?

GF: Oh, we'd buy marbles. My mother would give us five cents. We'd get five agates for five cents or 20 marbles five cents.

MF: Was five cents.

GF: And twenty marbles for five cents.

MF: Our days....we use to get marbles.

GF: No more marbles now days.

MF: No more marbles. Now it's all agates. Oh, I use to love to play marbles when I was small. Oh, I use to lose, and I use to buy. I lose and buy.

GF: Then we use to play the top.

GG: Yup. Milk tops.

GF: No, no, no, that's not my time. The top. Top.

GG: Spinning tops?

GF: Yeah, spinning tops. The big kui, use to put the big kui and all.

GG: You use to put the what?

GF: Big kui, that's a big nail. They call it "kui." You take off the nail, take out the one from the store, and then put their own nail inside.

MF: Take off...from the store, and they put their own. Long nail like this.

GF: Because when you go like this, when you press 'em, you go over here and you want to hit the other person's top and break 'em open, break 'em up. That was the idea to break the other guy's top.

MF: (Laughs) If you lose, just "frisco nick." They tell. Was "frisco nick," yeah? He lost so, everybody, bang! They can break 'em all up. Have to buy a new one.

GG: (Laughs) What about kites? Did you fly kites?

GF: Yeah, we made our own kites. That's why I say we never bought anything. We make our own kites. With no more paste. We had to put 'em flour and water and make the own paste with kites, that's right. With newspaper. Make the kites, make the sticks, and all that. And then we use to play games, like we use to get the papaya leaf (stem.) The thing, and put peas in the mouth, and blow the peas, and hit other kids with the peas. Blow through.

GG: This is the stem like of the papaya leaf?

GF: Yeah, the stem.

GG: And that was like a bean shooters?

GF: Uh huh.

GG: What about, did they have masquerading in your time?

GF: No, no. But Mama used to go on Christmas with some ladies. She used to go serenading. As I told you, Mama loved to sing. She used to go serenading out with the ladies, and my father stood home with us. And one time was midnight. I never forget that, and he waited and he waited. And all of us waited for Mama to come home, and she didn't come home till late. And here my father was so upset, because, "Where's your mother?" And he said, "She's to be home already." And she wasn't home yet.

GG: Did they go house to house singing, or...

GF: Yeah, house to house singing.

GG: And this was a group of women or men and women or....

GF: Men and women.

GG: Somebody else told us about that the other day, and they got tipped, I guess, if they sang.

GF: Yeah, they sang.

MF: Yeah, you call 'em in the house.

GF: They give them drinks. Well, my mother, they never use to give them money. Some people went for money. Some little kids, teenagers. But like Mama's one, they never went for money. They went for drinks. And if they call 'em in the house, give them drinks and something to eat, pupu and stuff. But not for money. Not Mama's time. But kids use to go for money.

GG: Now, your babies were born, what? The thirties?

GF: Yeah, one was 30, one '33, '36, and '39.

GG: Oh, all three years apart?

GF: Yeah. Three years apart, yeah.

GG: And did you have them with midwife or in the hospital or....

MF: Three with midwife. Then....

GF: No, wait. My son with the doctor. Two with midwife.

GG: And was that a Portuguese midwife, same area? Kakaako?

GF: Yeah, Portuguese midwife. And if I have any more children, I would never go back to the hospital. Wonderful, I tell you. I had two with the doctor, the beginning. Two. Because I had five children. One died. And two I had with the doctor.

GG: You went to the doctor with the first two?

GF: First two. Because I almost died with the second one, with the doctor. So my mother was so afraid, she said, "Gee, you could have died under the doctors." Says, "Why not try"....

MF: Could have been sued.

GF: ... "so why not try the midwife." All around that Kakaako, she was the one that....she had a license, too, you know. So Mama said, "Why not try with this lady?" She was very good. So she use to come over every week. And help me, you know, see how I was doing. She was very nice that way. Then when I had the baby, she was so good. She would---Mama would have the hot water ready and everything. When I would have the pains, I would call her. And she would rub me and everything. Oh, she was so good compared to just let you there in the hospital then suffer. Don't help you at all. But I was very finicky, though. I was worried about their fingernails, because I had first two with the doctor. I made sure that she had washed her hands, cut her fingernails, and, oh, my mother was so mad with me, because I was so---I'd tell, "Mama, make sure that lady's nails are clean. Make sure you have hot water. Make sure you have clean cloth." Ooooh. But that, oh, was so nice. I had two with her. Midwife was so good. Really. And then the last baby, I had to go to the hospital, because she was too old for them to renew her license. They didn't want to renew her license, so I had to have my last one. In other words, I had three with the doctor. Then two with her, the midwife. Then my Pat was born in Queen's. But the two, home, you know. The first two. Was home.

GG: Oh, you had the doctor, but at home.

GF: Home.

GG: Oh, I see.

GF: At home. Then I had the other two at home with the midwife. Then the last one was in the hospital.

GG: Those days, they didn't make a fuss if you didn't go to the hospital?

GF: No, they didn't. No. But now, all go to the hospital. But I could have died for the second baby, because I had---

MF: Was dead for about a week.

GF: No, about two, three days. Before the baby was born.

MF: Three days? Was Thursday you didn't feel the baby.

GF: Yeah. Friday, Saturday. Saturday morning I had the baby. But she get more important things to ask me besides that, Daddy.

(GG laughs)

GG: Well, let's see, I think you've pretty much covered---you had told me about the two places for medical care. One was at Kawaiahao Court, and then the other one, you said, you thought was where Muriel Kindergarten is, is that it or....

GF: Yeah, there was one there, too. The one at Muriel Kindergarten was mostly for small kids. They would take the kids there for the Board of Health. You go there and weigh the baby and all of that.

GG: Sort of a well baby clinic like?

GF: Yeah, well baby clinic, yeah. But the one in Kawaiahao Court, that was not the well baby clinic. That was---you got hurt, you went there. You know, it was a dispensary.

GG: And then you had mentioned you were going to---you went to Muriel Kindergarten when you were small, or....

GF: No, my kids went to Muriel Kindergarten. My kids. Not him.

MF: When I was a little boy I went---well, I don't know how old I was, but I use to go to that kindergarten there.

GF: Where?

MF: By the Kawaiahao Street.

GF: Oh. That wasn't Muriel Kindergarten at that time, eh.

MF: Well, I don't know. I don't know.

GG: Well, that's why I wondered. Because I think Muriel...

MF: It's so long ago, that's about...

GF: Well, it was the same people, though. You know, I was talking to this lady the other day, and I said, "You remember when"...

MF: It's about sixty or seven---67 years ago.

GF: I said, "You remember when they had the Muriel Kindergarten in the Kawaiahao Court?" She said, "Yeah. And then they moved to Ilaniwai Street." But it must have been Mr. Brown, because those the same people. That is the same people. I tell you why. Because they had built in our road, they built the Muriel Kindergarten. Then they got away from the court and went...

END OF SIDE TWO

SIDE ONE, TAPE #3-9-2-77

GG: What year were you born?

MF: Nineteen hundred and six.

GG: 1906. So it would have been about 1911, then, maybe?

MF: Yeah.

GG: Because that's the year when Muriel Kindergarten started. Was 1911.

MF: That was. That time, then. That was the time, see. Then '11, '12, '13. 1913, I think, we sold---my stepmother sold the house...

GF: Okay, we don't want that.

GG: (Laughs) No, I was curious to hear.

GF: Yeah, but then he's talking about his stepmother and all that. But you went to Muriel Kindergarten.

MF: Yeah, I remember.

GF: Well, I remember Mr. Brown and all of that from the Muriel Kindergarten. And then from the Kawaiahao Court, then they went into there. That's where the Muriel Kindergarten. That's right. But my kids went to Muriel Kindergarten.

GG: Tell me about your job in the laundry, too. You started, when, you said, about nineteen....

MF: 1925, I start with the laundry. I work to French Laundry for one year.

GG: And where was that?

MF: That's right on King Street.

GF: Next to the graveyard.

MF: But was close to the graveyard.

GG: And what did you do there?

MF: Well, I didn't know nothing, so I just learned. Learned how to dry clean, do a little washing. I just came from Maui at that time. I didn't know nothing about this town, see. So this guy gave me the job, and I got the job. Then I worked there for one year. Then when I went to....Young, I learned lot from smart mens that knew how to dye clothes, and spot. Taught me how to spot, how to wash, and ticket, things like that. First thing you know, we had a new manager, because the dyer that they had there one time use to put holes in the clothes. He was rough when he use to dye his clothes. He had lot of dyes there. But I use to watch him, see.

Then one day, the boss told me, "Eh, one lady wants to dye a dress blue."

I says, "I don't know how to do it. I don't know."

He says, "Well, you try anyway. Try." So I go around, I look at the bottles. You know, I look at some blue dye. Well, I knew I was working with one professional dyer. And he was really good, and I knew how he use to mix his stuff, and all stuffs. So I got to go. I got the dress up. I knew how to get 'em all prepared, you know, the dress, get 'em all prepared. Then I made my hot water, and I made the blue dye. I didn't put too much. I made sure. I don't want to make 'em too dark. Oh, that dress came really nice, you know.

GF: So he was a dyer from then on.

MF: Then the boss tell me, "Chee, that's good job. I going give you two dollars and a half raise." Yeah, I was happy. One time, they had a dress, was a yellow dress, and had a inkspot on it. They couldn't get it out. So I say, "I know what I'm going to do, I'm not going to say nothing." I went in the back, I got some bleach, yeah. And I stripped the color all out. And the ink came out. So I kept a little bit of sample so I don't go too dark, see. So I mix in the yellow dye, and I put it

inside, and I dyed it slowly until I came close to it, you know. Then I took it out. I dried it up and I went to the boss. I said, "Well, here's the dress."

And he said---this was husband wife, boss, the time, and she says, "How did you get it out?"

I says, "Well, I strip the thing out, and I dyed it over." Oh man!

From that time on, they tell me, "Eh, get something to be dyed brown, something to be dyed this." But just plain colors, see. But then in time as I was dying, then people wanted to sample jobs, you know.

They bring a dress, and they says, "I want you to dye this color."

I says, "Well, I cannot do that. I can try." And little by little, you know I mix the colors. Mix, mixing. I get the color come out right, and first thing you know, I got more raises and....that's the way I learned.

GG: So you were primarily a dyer, then?

MF: I was a dyer, yeah. I dyed---oh, I dyed so much clothes. Well, since 1926, '27.

GG: And you learned to mix the colors just by experimenting? You didn't know about color wheels and complementary colors?

MF: Yeah. Yeah, that's it. Yeah. Like if you want to make green, you know, you have to yellow and blue. And then maybe you want to make a grey, you have to use red, you know. And turn it to brown. I dyed so much rugs, too, for the Young.

GG: How did you move from French to Young?

MF: Well, I was making only nine dollars a week.

GG: At French?

MF: In French. So this boy called me, he called me from his place. He told me, "Eh, Felix, you want to come work for us? We get \$14 a week." Oh, I was glad to get the job.

(Laughter)

MF: And, you know, I didn't tell the boss nothing. I just quit, I just left the damn job and I went work on the Monday for this company.

GG: How did you first get your job at French? You said you had just come from Maui?

MF: Yeah, I just came from Maui and I work for the....

GF: But how you got the job at French?

MF: How I got the French? Toby. The same boss. This guy was working in the French laundry. And I went work for him. He told me, "Eh, Felix, I got a job for you."

GF: Maui boy. He knew him from Maui.

MF: He knew me from Maui, see. So he told me, "But I worked one day for the Oahu Ice Company." I worked there one day. And I didn't want to go back to Maui, see. So my uncle went and see the foreman and told me, "Eh, my nephew wants to work."

He say, "Yeah, sure. Tell him to get up tomorrow 3:30 in the morning. Start working at four in the morning." But at that time I was young, see. And I don't know nothing about the town, see.

And this driver tell me, "You take this ice down to certain place." I didn't know, I just dump.

GG: How did you take it down, though? Was that horsecart or they had....

GF: Use to have cars. They had cars.

GG: They had cars then?

GF: Wasn't horse driven, Felix?

MF: No, no. Was automobile already. 1926, they had trucks. They had already. They had trucks.

GF: I remember my father going shopping, coming home from the market on that little hacks, with the horse.

MF: The hack days, yeah. I remember the hack days, too.

GG: Oh, you were born in Kakaako or....

MF: No, I was born in Portugal.

GG: That's right. And then you came as a baby on the same trip as your father.

MF: Yeah. Single, single.

GG: But then you lived in Kakaako when you were young. That's where you went to kindergarten, so how did you...

MF: Yeah, yeah. That's right.

GG: When did you move away from Kakaako?

MF: Oh, we moved from Kakaako, we went to....Hawaii.

GG: But how old were you when you moved from Kakaako?

MF: Well, let's see now. I was about....eight or nine years old. We left I don't know what year. But we went to Hawaii in Kohala. No, we went to Hawaii in Pauka, in Hawaii. And my father lived there or worked there for about---I don't know how many years. Then my mother, she had a house in Queen Street. So we came back to Honolulu again, see. And then my father says, "Well, we going to Maui."

GF: The traveling people.

MF: So my father says, "Well, we going to Maui." And then my stepmother had to sell her place. She sold 'em for five hundred dollars, at that time.

GG: That was the Queen Street place?

MF: I think this was about 1914, I think. And then we went to Maui. And then the war break out. First World War. 1914, eh. '14. '17, United States went in. Yeah.

GG: That's right.

MF: That, I remember all those little things. And then...

GF: He stood in Maui until he was 19.

MF: Until I was 19. I worked in mill, I work in the chemist's room. I worked fire room. I worked the whole thing. I was working.

GG: Which plantation?

MF: Was Pioneer Mill Company, Lahaina. So in August the seventh, nineteen hundred twenty five, I said, "Good-bye, Maui." I came back to Honolulu.

GF: Because his mother, well, he never had seen his mother. You see, they were divorced when they were young, when they were little. So he came, he was coming to Honolulu to see his mother.

MF: Was to come see my mother.

GG: And where was your mother living?

GF: Here.

GG: In Kakaako or....

MF: Yeah, yeah, in Kakaako.

GF: Near the Advertiser.

MF: And Hustace Speck. She was living there. And that's how it was. And I works all my life for that company.

GG: How many employees, you know, did they have lots at Young Laundry?

MF: Oh yeah. They had about easy over hundred.

GG: And what kind of working hours did you have?

MF: Well, we started at 7:30, quit at 4:00, 4:30.

GG: And then you stayed a dyer right on through all the way until you retired?

MF: No, I was spotting. I was spotting and dyeing. When they had enough dye to dye, so I use to go in the dye house and do my dyeing. And then when they haven't got anything, I go back on the spotting boards, see. Take out spots, eh, clothes, eh. That's what I use to do.

GG: Was it hot in there, too, or what kind of---the working conditions? You worked in the big room or....

MF: Well, Kakaako is a hot place. And you know, you had steam. Was really hot. It's hot, yeah. Was really warm.

GF: And going back to this Kakaako, going back to this, we had a theatre called Bell Theatre. You heard about it? Anybody talk about it? But the theatre with no roof on top.

(MF laughs)

GF: And everytime used to rain, they to put open the umbrellas. Right inside. People said, "Close the umbrella! We can't see in the front." Because was silent movies.

(GG laughs)

MF: Silent movies.

GF: And we go outside. Little further down, had a theatre was all closed on the top.

MF: And she was here all the time. And I came back from Maui to marry her.

(Laughter)

GF: The kids would throw rocks. In the theatre you could hear the rocks on top the theatre. You remember, Felix? Aloha Theatre, they throw the rocks.

MF: Oh, Aloha Theatre, yeah, yeah. Aloha Theatre, yeah, yeah.

GF: Kids would (throw rocks on the roof). Rocks inside. And the kids would come, "Peanuts! Chewing gum! Peanuts! Chewing gum!" All inside the theatre.

MF: Yeah, boy.

GG: Did they have chairs in the theatre or....benches?

GF: Benches. Long, you know, long benches like how the church kind.

GG: Did you ever hear of Tandy MacKenzie, the only Hawaiian boy or first Hawaiian boy to become an opera singer?

GF: Yeah, MacKenzie.

GG: I understand he came back on a trip in 1922 and did a free concert from the Iolani Palace. And that a lot of people went to see him. And I just wondered if you had or if you knew anybody that did.

GF: No, I don't remember.

MF: And another thing, I didn't go to school. My stepmother wouldn't let me go to school.

GF: Talking about traditions, every Christmas, we would go down to the Palace. You know the Palace there? They had a Christmas there. They had a Christmas tree, oh my goodness so huge.

MF: Big.

GF: Oh my. I don't know if the tree is still there.

MF: Yeah, must be there.

GF: But they had a big tree! Bigger than a telephone post. My goodness, bigger. And they use to have it lit, you know. They have all those lights on Christmas time. All decorated. And then they would have a pageant on the day. And that was every year we'd go there to see that pageant that they had under there. Was beautiful. We'd go there. My mother would take us every year to see that. Was by the Palace. Do you remember that?

MF: Yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 3-9-3-77

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Gloria Felix (GF)

September 21, 1977

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

BY: Gael Gouveia (GG)

GG: This is the third interview with Gloria Felix and her husband (Mariano) in their home. And the date is September 21, 1977. Now, when you (asking Mariano) came to Kakaako from Maui, did you come on a boat? I guess you had to, right?

MF: Yeah, yeah. August the seventh. I never forget that day.

GF: You mean that's when he was 19 years old?

MF: August the seventh, nineteen hundred and twenty-five when I first came down here. I never forget that night because I said, "I will never sleep another night in here, in this house."

(Laughter)

GG: You came with a friend, right? The two of you had cooked it up ahead of time?

MF: No, that's was a different one. That's a different time. At just before that.

GF: Oh, you went with another friend to Kona.

MF: To Kona, yeah. And then when I came back, I found out that my mother had wrote a letter. And then I went nuts.

GF: His real mother. He never did know who his mother.

MF: Because I was so mad with my stepmother, I could kill her, you know. Ah, I never forget that.

GG: How come? She wrote---your mother wrote a letter for you to come and see her, or....

MF: Yeah. Was if I could coming down and see her. So I told my father the next day, I says, "Where's the letter that my mother wrote." So he give me the letter, and I read the letter, and I says well. I wrote

back to Honolulu, says I was coming down on the seventh of August, 1925. So that they can come down and meet me down the wharf, but nobody showed up. Nobody showed up. And, you know, I was just a country boy, you know, and I didn't know nothing about this town. But I remember from small about the church, you see. Where the St. Agnes Church, see. So one Filipino taxi driver, he told me, "Chee, you looking for a taxi?"

I say, "Yeah." But I told him, I says, "I don't [know] this place. Can you take me to part called St. Agnes Church?"

He says, "Yeah." So he took me. And with my suitcase.

GG: Did you have money with you too?

MF: Well, I had a few dollars. And I met one guy and saw me down on over there.

He tells me, he says, "Eh, how are you? You looking for somebody?"

Says, "Yeah. I looking for my mother and for my Uncle Frank."

GF: Father's brother.

MF: Was living right down the street. So he took me. I went. And he was my first friend. And we was friends a long time, boy. Frank Lopez.

GF: He took you to your uncle's house or to your mother's house?

MF: No, he took me to....

GF: Your uncle and then your uncle....

MF: Yeah. And then my uncle was telling me about this and that about "I don't see why you should go to your mother's. What your mother did to you kids," and all of that stuffs, you know.

So I says, "Okay." I stood with my uncle. My uncle took me to my mother, and stood there for a while. And my mother wanted me to stay there, but my uncle had told me, says, "No." He says, I can stay with Uncle Frank. So that's how it was. I stood with Uncle Frank.

GG: If you don't mind telling me, if you do, that's okay, too, but it's so unusual that people get divorced way back then. How did they manage to do it? Or how did friends and relatives react or....how did they even get a divorce way back then?

GF: Well, because she went with another man.

MF: She went with another man.

GF: She left with another man. The man, he was a boarder in the house.

MF: He was a boarder, and my mother was...

GF: And the father was such a nice man. He let the man come in the house, and board. And in the olden days they use to boil water outside. You know he'd bathe in hot water. And my father-in-law used to come home from work, and he had cold water. And the Puerto Rican, big Puerto Rican man had hot water.

MF: Hot water.

GF: So those things went on and on, and he finally caught on that they were, you know, they were going together. But it took---everybody knows before you do, those things. So she left.

GG: But then did they go to---okay, she left, but how did you go about getting a divorce in those days? Did you have to go to a judge, or....

MF: I guess so. Those days. That was in, way back in 1913, I think. 1913 when they had that divorce. 1913 or 1912. Because 1913, after I already move in Lahaina. Because the war break out in 1914, the Germans was fighting, eh. And then the United States went in 1917.

GG: 1917, I think.

MF: I remember that.

GG: And how, now I assume, because of your Portuguese background, that your parents had been Catholics. And yet your father remarried. Did he not go to church after that?

GF: They never went to church.

MF: No, I don't think they went to church.

GF: They wasn't the practicing Catholics.

GG: But were they before?

GF: No, not even the mother or anything. They just Catholic by name. There's lot of those people never went to church.

GG: You said your parents didn't either.

GF: Yeah, my mother, too.

GG: And that seems so unusual for Portuguese. And I wondered if there was a particular reason.

GF: Unusual. I don't know. Mama never went---I never remember seeing Mama in the...

MF: So we never use to go to church because we was in Pokuli. And the church was down in Lahaina, see. So they use to have no transportation, see. That's why we didn't go. But my father taught us how to pray in Portuguese and all that stuff.

GF: So the mother, since she left with that man, the father had all the children.

GG: That's unusual, too, for that time. For the father to be raising the children.

MF: My father had us.

GF: Very unusual at that time. So his grandma, he took the kids and the grandma helped him raise---helped him with the children, because one was only two years old, eh?

MF: My smallest sister, yeah.

GF: She was two years old.

GG: Now did your grandmother come to Hawaii, then, too?

MF: The same time.

GG: The same time your parents did?

MF: Same time.

GG: Your grandmother and grandfather. And they worked plantation, too, or....

MF: Yeah, yeah, yeah. They went to Kohala. And when we were kids, before my father married this woman, they got married and they sent us kids to Kohala for about three months, see.

GF: Because they went on honeymoon.

MF: They went honeymoon.

GG: What kind of honeymoon?

GF: Beats me. I don't know what kind of honeymoon.

GG: Three months. Big honeymoon in those days, too.

GF: Three months.

(Laughter)

GF: Yeah, very unusual.

MF: Us kids wasn't around, see. So only them two, eh.

GF: He made a very big mistake, though, marry that woman.

MF: She was a very, very mean woman, my stepmother was.

GG: To you children while you were growing up?

MF: Yes, very mean.

GF: That's why he can't see anybody mistreating a little kid. He can't see that, because he know what he went through, you know. But of all the whole bunch, they liked (him) the best.

MF: Well, my brother used to get the most lickings. Whatever we do, whatever he said to do, well Manuel told me he's the oldest, eh. So he's the one that get the punishment.

(Laughter)

GG: And in those days, they licked first and talked later, yeah?

GF: Yeah. You ain't kidding. That's very true.

MF: One time me and my brother use to say---my brother, he told me, "Hey, Mariano, we no go school today. We go in the river."

I says, "Okay." We went. (Chuckles) We stood there till about two o'clock, 2:30. Then we said, "Eh, after school. We better get going." So we went. And who comes down? The principal.

The principal in his Model T Ford and says, "Eh, what you folks doing?" Says, "You didn't go school today." He said, "Come inside." I think he follow us home. Took us home, and that principal told my stepmother. Oh, the lickings! My brother had again.

(Laughter)

GF: But they were very close, the kids, because of the way that mother use to treat them, you know. They were very close.

GG: You mentioned, too, that you had a car when you folks got married. Whose car was it, and what kind was it or....

GF: He owned it.

MF: A 1924 model, the Erskine.

GG: And you got married in 1925?

MF: 1929.

GG: 1929, I see. And who did the car belong to?

MF: Me.

GG: And how did you happen to have the car? From working or....

MF: Yeah. Why, you could buy one car those days. If you had a hundred dollars, you could buy one good car.

GG: Well, I guess I was thinking, now, did many people your age have cars? Because you lived in Kakaako and you worked in Kakaako, so what did you really need a car for?

MF: I always did have a car. Always.

GF: Because he was just, a country boy, and he wanted a car. And he got all that. He wanted a car.

GG: I wondered if it was a status symbol, like to have a car.

MF: Yeah, yeah.

GG: What kind of places did you go with the car, say, before you were married or....did you take a bunch of your friends, or....

MF: Oh, down the beach. I use to go down the beach.

GF: Yeah, we use to go all over. We use to go around the island.

MF: When I got married, I still had a car, and we use to go here and there. Go to Waikiki. Was most the times, we go down Waikiki. Was no more cars, those days, eh.

GF: We'd go to friends' house in Aiea. We would go all over.

GG: Sassy, eh?

(Laughter)

GF: And we'd go pick guavas. We'd go with the car, and go pick guavas. Way up Manoa and Nuuanu.

MF: We go down Manoa way, up Manoa way.

GF: We use to go all over. Go pick gingers.

MF: Go fishing. Go camping.

GF: You see, different the way these kids now days, you know. And was no bad minding. Anything, wherever we went was all in good fun, you know.

GG: Well, that's I wondered, now, before you were married, were you allowed to go with him, and, say, your sisters or....in the car?

MF: No, no.

GF: Oh, no, no. I never rode the car with him. I never.

GG: Until after you were married.

MF: Only one night when they went to a party. Somebody got married, I think. And I got her and one other girlfriend and one other boy---Manuel Martin and Hilda Johansen. We went down the beach. Little talk, you know.

GF: That's all. Talk. And then we came back again. My mother missed me in the party.

GG: Oh boy.

(Laughter)

GF: Can you imagine. I was the hot water for awhile....

MF: But she didn't know that she went out with me, though.

GF: She just miss me. She didn't know, you know, where we went.

MF: And another thing. At that time, you know Ala Moana Boulevard, road, you know, the ocean was right up to the road.

GG: Right. 'Cause no more Ala Moana Park those days, right?

MF: No, no. Just was all ocean there, up to the road. And use to have lot of kiawe trees in there. And then they finally....

GF: Well, they use to have squatters over there, too. People use to live there, too. Squattersville use to be there, too. Oh, Squattersville was on the other side too, Felix, because I know the girls that use to live there. They had a twin---Hawaiian girls.

GG: Oh, so they had like two areas that were Squattersville?

GF: Yeah, two areas. You know where Ala Moana Center is now? They had Squattersville over there, too.

GG: Oh, somebody else told us that, and we thought they must have gotten mixed up because most of it, I guess, was sort of close to where the Immigration Station is now?

GF: Yeah, that's another one there. That's one there. And the one over there,

because I---I never forget, there was two Hawaiian girls, they twins. And they had one named---I think was Kalei. Her aunty, they use to live with their aunty, Kalei. And they use to go to school, where I was, you know, going to Pohukaina. But I remember, oh, so well. That, I can picture the twins in front of me.

MF: They use to live inside that place.

GF: They use to live in there. Yes. And houses over there. Little walk ways with the sand and all that.

GG: Okay, how about tell me now again, about the Holy Ghost festivities, or what you folks did?

MF: Get the pictures, darling. And show her.

GF: Well, what it's all about, you mean?

GG: Yeah, yeah. The Feast of Pentecost.

GF: Well, it's the Feast of Pentecost. Well, it's a seven week celebration. It starts on the week after Easter. And then it goes on for seven weeks. And then on the last week, on the Friday, they have---at that time or now?

GG: At that time.

GF: Well, they use to have the meat come in on Friday. Of course, they use to go around and get different members, people, members, membership from all the different districts. And as I said, like this is the Kakaako one. And Punchbowl had theirs and Kalihi had theirs, and Kaimuki had theirs. But this is, I'm talking about Kakaako, now.

MF: Kaimuki didn't had.

GF: Yes, Kaimuki had.

MF: Oh, and how come they no more now?

GF: Well, they just did away with it. And they would have meat, and they would have the butchers come in. They would have so many quarters hanged up. Maybe about 12 or maybe 20 quarters hanging up. Depends how many members that they got. So the butchers use to come, and we use to have---Father come.

(Workman enters to fix the bathroom. Taping stops and then resumes.)

GG: The butchers would come from where?

GF: The butchers would come in. You see, when the meat was all ready--- I mean, the meat would come in the afternoon, anyway. Then Father use to come there and bless the meat.

GG: But come where? Where is the meat?

GF: Come to the Holy Ghost lot; where that lot is over there.

GG: And where was it in Kakaako?

GF: It was just where it is now.

GG: Which is where? 'Cause I don't know where.

GF: It's on Queen Street. 815 South Queen Street. It's still there.

MF: Although it's not like that before.

GF: Well, they use to go there and then the priest use to come over and bless the meat.

MF: Bless everything.

GF: Bless everything. Bless the meat, bless the sweetbread, and bless the bread, you know. Then they start opening the place, and they have bazaar. They sell---only little bazaar selling tickets and stuff around there.

MF: I don't think so. No, they never use to sell anything.

GF: No, they never use to sell anything. No. No, now they do. They sell hot dogs and hamburgers and all. But at that time, they didn't sell anything. It's just all the bazaars, all those little trinkets going on. All the different things (like fish pond and bottle games).

MF: Then use to serve the lunch.

GF: That goes up to 12---no, and then, this is the time for my father's time, now. This is my mother. And use to get all the officers' wives get together, from the meat that they slaughtered, they get all the insides of that meat of the cow. And they use to bring 'em to Mama's house. My father use to go in the slaughterhouse and pick up all the tripe, thelungs, the heart, the liver. And that time, the kind of tripe, you had to clean it. That was in the washboard, Mama use to clean that. Was so hard to clean. But, as I say, all the officers' wives had to come there and help us. We, us kids, we use to have lot of work, too, you know, helping Mama to with all that tripe. But anyway, they made a big pot of stew. Caçarola. Portuguese call that caçarola. That's made a stew from the inside. And then....

MF: After they cut the meat...

GF: No, then they would have that meat cooked, and you know, everybody would go there, make a big stew in Mama's house, in the back, in the big pot. With the wood outside, you know. And then of course, the men would come in and 12 o' clock, the butchers from C.Q. Yee Hop would come down, about five of them--five or even six used to come there--and start cutting up the meat. My father use to have those tables all ready for the men. They'd come down. And some volunteers, they use to help the men take the meat out. And then, cut it all up. And then they had to cut up about eight pounds, you know. So the one fellow was weighing the meat while the other---then the other one had to put a little piece on to make the weight. Then you go to put 'em on the table. And they put 'em all in little individual ones, eight pounds. Just like that, the meat, now. There's no refrigeration, no nothing. It's just that meat like that. And then they get funcho, they have some kind of funcho. Funcho is one kind of an herb that they put in the meat. It's some kind of a, just like a mint like. And they use to put the mint over there. And use to give some nice odor to the meat. That would go to about, oh, maybe three, four o' clock in the morning, that cutting of the meat. Then everybody would stop, and they would go eat the stew. Even those Chinese men use to go eat the stew, too. They use to like it. They use to look forward to go eating that stew. And then all the people that was around there helping, use to go there and eat stew.

MF: But everybody ate.

GF: No, not everybody. Now everybody eats, Felix. No, at that time, was only the ones that's working would eat. You know, would help. Because nobody would be there anyway. They'll all be going home at that hour, you see. So the next morning....

GG: They just leave the meat out on the table?

GF: They leave the meat on that. And then...

MF: Then they wrap.

GF: ...they start wrapping it up.

GG: What did they wrap it in?

GF: In regular paper.

GG: Like brown paper?

GF: Yeah. They wrap it up. And then, like you belong to this Kakaako district. This driver---they use to have the Honolulu Construction trucks come here at that time. And they use to pay. All their trucks come in, you know.

MF: But most time was all free, eh?

GF: Later, was free. But at that time, they had to pay the construction.

GG: The organization paid the HC&D?

GF: Yes, yes. And they use to come. Like if you had Kakaako and you had about 250 members, you go get 250 meats, and put 'em in your car. 250 bread, 250 sweetbread in your car. Then as soon as you go out, the first truck go out, the firecrackers---they burn firecrackers. That's the first meat going out. And of course, if you in charge of Kakaako, it's you suppose to see that you have enough people in your truck to help deliver. Because the first one goes out is with the---goes in your house with the flag in the plate. The pigeon in the flag. But it's in a tray.

GG: What kind of a pigeon?

GF: It's a pigeon made out of cloth. Embossed cotton. You know, they made. And they sew it on. Some of them, they make fancy work on the pigeon, but it's a pigeon.

GG: The members made the pigeons?

GF: Well, there's a lady that use to make the pigeon, you know. And sew it on the red satin material. And with the fringe around. And they use to put that on the tray, just the pigeon. And then whoever is holding the tray goes in the house first. And up to you to kiss the pigeon and put money in the tray. And then the other one comes with the meat. And they come with the bread, and the stuff, and they put it---they go right in the house. Put in the kitchen. But the pigeon comes first. That's the symbol of the Holy Ghost. The pigeon, see. Then they go out, they go and deliver to another house. And they go deliver. But lot of them, the old Portuguese tradition is this, as soon as they enter the house, they get wine for them. For the driver. And sometime the driver---well, he's not carrying anything now, the one that's responsible. He's checking out. Okay, now you go to this house.

GG: 'Cause say, by the time he delivers, he's plastered.

GF: He's not driving now. 'Cause construction car is driving. He's not driving.

GG: Oh, I see. Well, are they all tipsy by the time...

GF: Yeah, by the time. You see, they were all feeling high by the time.... I had my sister's husband--my brother-in-law--by the time he get back to that yard, he's plastered.

(Laughter)

GF: And lot of them didn't get their meat.

MF: Some of them would forget deliver meat.

GF: Their meat. Uh huh. And then they had to call back, and then they make a special trip, go over their house and get the meat. And then some would come back and complain that their meat had too much bone and all of that. And oh, this meat. Nothing spoil, though. Never anybody complained about spoiled meat. The only complaint was that, "Oh, I didn't have a good piece. I had bone." Oh, that use to hurt my father. He use to get mad. He said, "You people are members just for the meat." He said that the spirit in back of it.

GG: Now, after they brought it to the house, then what happens from there in the house? What do the people do with it?

GF: They cook it.

GG: How did they cook it?

GF: Vinho e alhos.

GG: And then that's the meal for that day?

GF: Well, if they want, they can eat the meat for that day. If they don't want, they don't have to.

GG: Oh, it's not traditional that you eat it that day.

GF: No, no, it's not.

MF: No.

GG: But if they had no refrigeration, or did they have in the houses?

GF: Well, they use to pickle the meat, lot of them. Use to pickle the meat. And I guess, maybe they would cook it right away. But Mama always cooked hers. But not that I remember you had to do it. But Mama always did. Because Mama had so much people over the house. Because we lived close to the yard all the time. So everybody came to Mama's house to go to the Holy Ghost. They go, "Let's go over Mrs. Pacheco's house. And they just sit down there." And then that was a Friday night. Now this is Saturday morning I'm talking about. Now when the last car comes in the yard after they deliver-- no, not the last car. Every car. Every car is back, they burn fire-crackers, you know. Then you see some of them sleeping around, because they never slept all night. Because the kids, have lot of fun. And then that night, they would have the reception again, the same thing they had on Friday night. But the Saturday night, they didn't have so much people as on the Friday night, because lot of them came just to see Father bless the meat, you know.

GG: And then, now, what did they do at the reception, say on Saturday night?

GF: The Holy Ghost was open. And they had the band outside. The band use to play. Real Portuguese band we had, on Friday night and Saturday night, the band use to play.

MF: I remember that.

GF: And then we had the Holy Ghost open, and people use to come inside and pray, and give some....donations and stuff like that. They had to. All of them. And they all use to sit inside there. Now they don't sit inside. Before they use to sit inside and all talk story, and have games, and all of that. But they don't do that any more.

GG: Now how far back do you remember this tradition? How old were you when....

GF: As far as I can remember. I was about, oh, my. I was about six....

MF: Your father was president when you was 12 years old. Or way before that.

GG: He was president of the Holy Ghost?

GF: Holy Ghost. 25 years.

GG: Association? Is that what you call it or....

GF: The Kewalo Holy Ghost. That's all they call it. The Kewalo Holy Ghost.

GG: But now this is a tradition that came from the old country?

GF: From the old country. That this priests down here, they don't recognize it.

GG: The priest here in Hawaii, you mean?

GF: They don't....disregard it, but they have nothing to do---you see, lot of those priest that came before with the olden priest, they could speak Portuguese, you know. And they would go along. Like the bishop was Portuguese before. On a Sunday---now this Saturday I was telling you. Now this is Sunday, they have the procession. On the Sunday, the procession starts. Used to have 'em in the afternoon. Now they have in the morning. You see, as the thing goes by, they improve. Because in the afternoon was too hot. So now they make it in the morning. So they had the afternoon. And they would walk to the church, and have Mass, then go around again. Around the streets again.

MF: Kawaiahao. Was on Kawaiahao.

GF: Yeah. And then come back to the hall there. And in the meantime, there's the flags, and the girl with the crown, and flowers. All fresh flowers. Mama used to make our little crowns for the heads. You know, all the flowers, fresh flowers. And make rag curls, and that. But as far back as I can remember---I can remember far as about seven years old.

GG: And now, the procession. The members marched in the procession or....

GF: No. You see....they would march in the procession, but...

GG: I'm going to turn the tape.

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

GG: Okay.

GF: You see, my father was a president, and, well, I'm going with my father's tradition. But still went back before that, but it was the same way. The president would have to choose all the girls that were in the procession. And even the girl to crown, you know, would have to be chosen by the president.

MF: They would have to be in the association.

GF: Yes, yeah. They had the girl to crown. So they had....now as I go back, there's seven weeks we had, you understand. But now, on the Sunday of the procession, they have the crowning of the queen. And the band goes with the procession. And then Father is crowning the girl. And as soon as Father puts the crown on the head, they's sing "Papaschkumpon." That (sings a few bars of the song). That's old Portuguese song, you know. So I can't hear that song, you know. I can't. Because I cry. I can't. Because my father, he was so....he'd cry when he even he'd hear that song himself. And I can't. My sisters, we can't hear that song.

GG: What is the meaning of the song, or....

GF: It's a Holy Ghost song. That's all I know. But it's so touching, you know. That it's from way back.

GG: And was the girl, the queen of the procession, was she supposedly representing, like Mary or....

GF: Yes. Uh huh. She was supposed to be. And had to be a virgin. My father always said she had to be a virgin. She couldn't be anything else but a virgin. And not even have to be a lady, yet not even a lady.

GG: So it was a young girl?

GF: Young girl, yeah. But now it's all different. Now anybody---they take anybody. So when they come back to the yard, they have that---then they have a feast. They'd come back from the procession after Father blessing. Then who goes in the procession first was the bishop at that time. He was Bishop Alencastre. He was a Portuguese bishop. Naturally, he had his priest go with him, and they go with the thing in the front.

GG: The incense?

GF: Yeah. And go all around the road and come back. So then, Father would go back to his house, taking the bishop with him. And Mama would send the meat, all done. All his meat, his salad and everything ready on a platter for the bishop and whoever. Whoever went with him, assistants, and our priest from our church, St. Agnes, use to go. That's what my mother's job all the time to see that--send the meat to Father now. Vinho e alhos, everything, all nicely cooked, you know. And then they use to feed all the band men first, because they had to come and play. And feed the band men. Afterwards he'd feed all the kids that were in the procession.

GG: Were the band men Portuguese, too?

GF: Yes.

GG: And where did they come from?

GF: Around the Honolulu here.

GG: Did they wear costume kind or a special band uniform?

GF: Yeah, they did.

GG: What was it like or do you know?

GF: Well, it was kind of old fashioned, you know. They use to wear...

MF: Yeah, those days was white.

GF: ...white, you know. Just like the guys was in the Navy, you know. Son of a gun, we don't have any pictures of those people, you know.

GG: What were their trousers like? Or do you remember.

GF: White. Just plain white trousers. Just---that's ordinary trousers. With the....

GG: And did they have a special hats, too, or....

GF: Uh huh.

GG: Was it like a band, you know, kind?

GF: Yes. Uh huh.

GG: With gold braid?

GF: Uh huh.

GG: And was it white, too, or....

GF: White.

GG: All white they were dressed in. And what about the girls that were in the procession? Now what kind of things did they wear?

GF: Well, they all had to go in white. Was all white. But as I say, now days, they change. They going all different colors.

GG: Were they long dresses?

GF: No, short. When my time when we were little, who went out on the procession was just the flags. And the Santo Christo.

GG: What is that?

GF: Santo Christo is Christ the King. Santo Christo, Christ the King. That's the only statue that went out.

GG: Oh, that they carried. The statues.

GF: They carried out. Nothing else. They never had any statues, period. But now, they have more thousand that goes out. They get the Blessed Mother, they get the Sacred Hearts. St. Anthony, St. Peter, Paul, and they get Saint Joseph. And they have St. Martin. And, oh, my, so many that they have. The people, they donate that. They give that to the church. And then, okay. Now we go back to the procession. After everybody gets through eating and cleaning up. Now, it's all plates, now. It's all washing. My sister, my youngest sister and I never use to do too much, but my older sister and all the others related, they all use to wash the dishes and then get rid of everything, and hold the door. Nobody come in until they have all those dishes washed again. And we got to go make that hot water on the stove, and wash all the dishes, and set all the table again. And have another bunch come in. It went on all day. Till about three, four o' clock. Feed all those people, you know.

GG: About how many people would...

GF: Free. Free. Oh, about 500 people use to eat. They use to come special to eat because Kakaako is free. The only Holy Ghost that use to give free food. Because my father said that's the Holy Ghost feast. And he couldn't see paying, anybody paying. And the feast is sit down and eat. A feast is to sit down and eat. That's the tradition of Portugal. He couldn't

see....not sitting down. Everybody had to be sitting and eating. Okay, then afterwards...

MF: They had first class food, too.

GG: I was going to ask now, what kind of food.

(Church chimes in the background.)

GF: Well, had vinho e alhos meat. You see, they had...

GG: So much to cook.

GF: To cook, uh huh. But they wouldn't cook it. They would send it out to cook, you know. To the bakery or something. I don't know where it was. And then they go and get it, they bring it back. And then they would slice all the meat and potatoes. No, just the meat.

MF: Had mash potato...

GF: No, no mash potato.

MF: They had pickles.

GF: No mash potato!

MF: No, not mash potato. But they had all regular ones because I know. I remember. And had pickles, tomatoes.

GF: Yeah, they had potato salad. All that meat. And bread. And the pickles and olives. Catsup. That's all. No toss salad or anything. Was just tomatoes. Tomatoes and cucumbers, potato salad, and the roast beef, lot of salad. They always had lot of meat, left over. So after the thing was all over, everybody got through eating and clean up the place, and then they all went out to the bazaar again, and hear the band playing, and all this thing. Then about two o' clock, people naturally still eating. Then they started with the auction. They would start auctioning. And all the people donate, now. People would donate bread. Now if you had an arm that was sore, they would make sweetbread in the shape of an arm. And they would put little jelly beans on the top, and money on top. Or if your leg was sore, they would have people---like, you see, those sweetbread that they made was made in the bakery in Kakaako. The ladies, about five ladies. Papa used to choose about five ladies to go down. They start three days ahead of time to go make that bread, because they got to make about seven, eight hundred loaves, you see. So they use to go there and bake the bread. My father use to take them down early in the morning, the Chinese bakery, and then use to come home. And then they'd go....cook the bread. Then they requested the Chinese men to make an arm or a leg or something. And people themselves use to make home. The leg and theand some is the head. Some trouble with the head. They use to

make the head. And all with the little, eyes and everything. Was nice the way they use to do with the jelly beans. And here the money is inside. They poke the money inside.

GG: Is that coins, you mean, or....

GF: Coin. Some was coins, and some was...

MF: Was dollars.

GF: Yeah, was dollars, money. But some was paper, too. They use to put paper, too. And so when they use to come out of the auction, the person that gave that leg would try and buy it back.

(GG laughs)

GF: That's how they wanted, they buy it back. That's the good luck. To buy it back. But there's some people that wanted, too, so that thing, it can go high as ever, you know.

MF: Yeah.

GF: Up to \$15. "Can I have \$17?" "\$17." "Can I have \$18?" "\$18." "Can I have a \$19?" "\$19." And then they just going on, and that thing, sometimes only worth a dollar. It's just because they want to buck, and they get it. You know, just for spite, they'll do something like that, you see.

GG: Well, was the auction to raise money for the organization?

MF: Yeah, yeah.

GF: Yes.

GG: Partly helped defray the cost.

GF: Yes, yes. That's what it was. Then they would give a pig. They would give calves. They would give cows. They would give chickens. They would give rabbits. They would give ducks. All for the auction.

GG: What about home-made type things?

GF: No, I wouldn't say home-made cakes.

GG: I meant like what about like bedspreads or doilies or....

GF: Oh yes! That, all home-made stuff. That was all hand-made stuff would go so fast.

GF: Crochets, and bedspreads, and doilies, and pillow cases, and tablecloths.

Oh, that was the "in" thing at that time. That was a lot of that. So that auction went on for quite some time. And then the bazaar. Okay. Now, if you member, you can go in. Then they said, "Now, we can....now we going to open for the Domingish." Which means you want one domingo. You want to run one week. As I say, seven weeks. Well, when you put your child in there, put your name. Like my name is---like for instance, my daughter's name was Shirley. And I would go put my Shirley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mariano Felix. They would put it down. And I had to give a dollar, you know. And then they would give---no, that time you never have to give. Now you have to. But before, you didn't have to give a dollar. And then they have about 50 names in there. But only seven that's going to come out. But they go mostly for the number seven. Afterwards. They would go mostly after this, now. This was another tradition, now. They liked the seventh because the seventh, you can decorate it nice, the church. That's where the big feast. And you say, "Oh, Mrs. Felix, that's her week. Look how beautiful." They would go inside and see how nice it was. I'm just an example, just saying that. And then, later on, it came....well, whoever had the seventh domingo, the girl could crown. That was later on, you see, that the girl could crown. But before, the president had the say that girl could crown.

GG: Was this domingo? Is that how you say it?

GF: Yeah, domingo.

GG: That was your week to do something?

GF: We to keep that Holy Ghost open for one week, put fresh flowers, light candles, and have the door open until the people was there. For one week. Then on Sunday, they would change. On Sunday, the lady that would come and take for the next week, she had to be there by six o' clock, and you just give the keys to her. And she would run it again for the whole week, that second week.

GG: And then how late did it stay open at night?

GF: Well, about nine o' clock. We were play games, people would play games out in the yard. We play games inside. We play the ring game. As long as there was some reasonable games, we would play inside. Like the ring. But anything rowdy kind, we couldn't play, you know.

GG: But this was for the seven weeks before the procession and the feast, though, right?

GF: Before the feast. Yeah. Procession. And the feast. And in order to put your name in the vase--they use to call it vase--you have to be a member. But you can put five kids if you want.

GG: Would you get all five weeks to take care of it?

GF: Yeah. Not only that, when you pull up---oh, empatada! That means no domingo. Because that's seven wrapped in there, you understand. So they mixed up with all the names. You see. One is with the names, and one was blank, and one with blanks and the domingos in that other bowl. So the queen, she picks up the name. Say, like, "Shirley Felix."

MF: "Seven domingo." Something like that.

GF: No, no. Wait. "Shirley Felix." They use to go. Wait. "Filha, filha de Mariano Felix." "Filha." That's how they go Portuguese at that time. You see, "filha" means "daughter." Filha de Mariano Felix." And my daughter would go up, and then she would pull that side. If there's a blank, the man would say, "Oh, Ma empatada." That means I have to give you a dollar, you see. Then they call, call, and call, until when the seven domingos is all filled, are taken, then that's it. Whoever would get the seventh domingo, there was tears in that place. It was so joyous. They would just love one another. And they just, was such an honor to get that seven. I was crowned twice, you know. Not that my mother had anything to do with it. Was later on, when you could--when the seven domingo could choose their own queen, and then I was twice. They chose me because my father was president.

MF: Shirley was once one time. 1944.

GF: Then that's it. But whoever would get the first domingo, would pull the first domingo, they had to leave that chapel open, now. Now she's watching that place, now. All that whole week. Friday, Saturday, she have to be in there with all those flowers, you know. Those days was long candles and you got to watch those candles. Now its cups, these ladies don't worry, you see. So then, this lady that gets the first domingo, as soon as the thing is all over, because that's when the---the domingo use to come out, that means everything is pau. So they come and give you the key. Now she stays there for a week until the flowers is all no good. Then she can clean it all up. Then next year, she'll come back, and wait. She have to open the first week.

GG: When do they choose the domingo? Is that like at the end of one year's celebration, they'd do it for the next year?

MF: Yeah.

GF: Yeah. But about five, six o' clock when they start domingos, they take the domingos, and then that's it. That's all through. And then nothing till the following year. Of course, people come for that week. But just right in the room there. In the chapel, they are right---and then talking, they talking and joking, and, you know, that's all. And then nobody can smoke, or nobody---but now they do. My father wouldn't stand it, even smoking in the chapel. But now they do. The tradition is all gone.

And everybody congregated right in the chapel there. Was so nice, you know. And was so homely feeling with the people that you know. But now, nobody goes inside of the chapel. It's just the person that's taking care. She sits outside. She just looks inside and look at the candles every once in a while, and that's it. There's nobody inside.

GG: Well, can you account for why the tradition has died down to a certain degree....

MF: They more modern way.

GF: Well, I guess the teenagers. You see, already with my kids, with me, well, my kids already was a different trend already. They just didn't care. No, my kids won't have anything to do with the Holy Ghost celebration. Now I see people that the kids are so interested. They will go with their mothers.

GG: So they still do celebrate it every year though it's quite different.

GF: Yeah, very different. I mean the kids won't go inside. They don't want to march now. They don't want to march. Before, it was an honor to march. Oh my goodness! We used to tell my father, "Pa, go and get this girl to march."

"Oh, I'm so happy!" But, now these kids don't want to march.

GG: Do they still have the procession every year, though?

MF: Yeah.

GF: Yes. They have it. Every year. Now the first one starts at Kalihi. That's the real original one, Kalihi. Because that's the one Fort Street had and they did away with it, because, you know, the bishop died and they don't believe---I don't say they don't believe in it, but....

GG: They just don't consider it a part of the church whatever.

GF: No. You know why, because no money going to the church. It's going only to their hall there, you see. And then to the people there. Now if they had that thing done in big church, it would be something else. But my father always said, "That Holy Ghost is not going to that church. And they better not go." He said, "Because this is on our own. We brought this from the old country, this tradition. We started here." And that's it. They just kept on with the tradition. Kalihi comes first. As I said Fort Street did away with it. Then there was a Portuguese man, he was from Portugal, too. He said, "Gee, why not keep it up?" Fort Street had all that crown and the flags and everything. So he went and asked the Bishop there if he could have all those things that---he wanted to open one in Kalihi. They had the grounds there. So they took it up there.

GG: Do you recall when that was or....

GF: Oh, that was. Oh my goodness.

MF: 1927, I think. 'Cause I remember I use to go to Fort Street, the Holy Ghost. That was in 1925.

GF: 1925, yeah.

MF: I think 1926, I think 1927. I think 1927, they give it up.

GG: But Kakaako already had. Theirs was going on before 1925?

GF: Yes, yes, yes. But as I said, Kalihi came first. Was Fort Street. Then came Punchbowl. They have their own chapel there, you know. They had the Mass right in there, too, before. Then had Kaimuki. And then Kakaako. And then Senhora de Mont, that's Lady of the Mount. August the 15th. That was the last. That wasn't the Holy Ghost, though. Well, it was sort of the Holy Ghost, too. But that was mostly celebration for the Lady of the Mount. But they had crowning and...

GG: Isn't the Immaculate Conception right around...

GF: No, no.

GG: Or not. Assumption? Assumption is around there. Feast of the Assumption.

GF: Feast of the Assumption. Yes, yes. That's August 15. Was with the Assumption of the Blessed Mother, yeah.

GG: So, now, only Portuguese people marched in the procession?

GF: Yes.

GG: But did the rest of the community come to see?

GF: Yes.

MF: Oh yeah.

GF: We had one man there, Portuguese man. The name was Stone. But was Pedra, pedra is "stone" in Portuguese. But he change it to Stone. And his wife was Chinese-Hawaiian. And they use to come there, and believe me, boy, the things that man bought at the auction.

MF: If he don't like you, and you beat him, if he don't like you and he's beaten, he don't care even go one hundred, two hundred dollars until he win.

GF: He's going to get that what he wants.

MF: He going to get it.

GG: What kind of job did he have to have that much money?

GF: Yeah, he had property. He had quite a bit of property before.
And all, he had money.

MF: Yeah, he was lousy with money.

(Laughter)

GG: I know there was a Eleanor Heavey, she was Wilson before.

GF: Yeah, Wilson.

GG: She said she used to love to go and watch the procession. But could they participate, say, in the bazaar, or eating, or anything?

GF: No. They could go eat.

GG: Oh, they could go eat for free.

GF: Yeah, yeah.

GG: So the whole community could eat, then.

GF: Yeah, everybody. You know, my father's idea was that people use to come from all over to see the procession. They not going home to eat. They going to stay right there. They come and they eat.

MF: And they give wine to the people that comes there.

GF: Like if they going home to eat, they going to stay home. You see, so they would keep the people.

MF: Yeah. So they keep 'em there. Give 'em drinks and....

GG: Oh, you mean the auction came after eating? That way you had a larger crowd.

GF: Larger crowd. Yeah.

MF: And then my father-in-law use to feed them good.

GG: And they feel like they're not paying for their meal, so they got to buy something at the auction.

GF: But that's the only Holy Ghost that give free. Oh no, then Kalihi started to give free.

GF: But that's lately, though. They give soupas. Kalihi started with soup. Kalihi started with soup but when they took over from Fort Street, they started with soupas, but it never went big.

GG: What is that?

GF: Soupas. In the Mainland, that Holy Ghost feast is soupas. They have meat. And they boil that meat in big vats. Big vats, they boil it. And with the spices, all kinds of spices.

MF: They put that ferrange inside. Mint, mint.

GF: Yeah, they put the mint. You know, they cook and cook it. Well, I experience that, too. Couple of years back, I went to one of those, and they have all these Portuguese men talking in Portuguese. And all young boys, too. And they bring the little alguidar--"alguidar" means one little pan. And one with the pan, with all the meat. All the meat now. All with the gravy and all. It's good. You know, the way they cook it. And another pan just as big with the bread with the gravy of the meat. And they just put the pans right on top of the tables there. Now, there's lots of tables, because people all coming to eat. So you have your plate, and you grab your meat, and you put 'em in plate, and you grab your bread. And it's so delicious! That meat tasted so good. All night they been cooking that stuff. Well, they try to do it in Honolulu. It didn't go big. People don't like the bread, like that.

MF: But that's a must in the Mainland.

GF: Because in the Mainland, they line up. Oh, my goodness!

MF: By the thousands.

GF: People! By the thousands they line up to go eat that soupas. But all Portuguese, though, you see. The last time--not this year. I didn't go this year because I wasn't there at that time. I was in Oregon. And we went the year before, and oh, gee, that meat was just....it's just so tender. And you have the big bowl. And the guy, they come. Real talking Portuguese. They grab the stuff and fill 'em up, and fill 'em up again on the table. Now another bunch will come inside and eat. Was really nice, the way they do it. And then they put mint.

GG: In the meat...

GF: Meat. Yeah. Well, they would put that too. Put 'em on top, on the plate. Just put that on.

MF: That was tradition.

GF: Yeah, uh huh. As I said, this man tried to do it, but it never went over. So then they went to serving the meat like how my father did. They went back to serving the meat like that.

GG: Then the Pentecost feast, was that about the biggest celebration all year in Kakaako? Where everybody would come out?

GF: Oh yeah. Oh sure.

GG: Were there any other ethnic groups that put on something that would be comparable. I mean, did the Chinese have something or....

GF: Oh, the Japanese use to have big....

GG: Oh, bon dance?

GF: Yeah, the bon dance. The Japanese, uh huh.

GG: And did the Portuguese go out to watch the bon dances, too, or....

MF: No, no. I don't think so.

GF: Yes, we use to go.

MF: You use to go?

GF: I want you see my wedding picture. (Laughter)

GG: Oh yes. I'd love to see it. Oh, isn't that nice?

GF: The other day I was looking at it.

GG: I'll turn this off.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

GG: Okay. This type of flag is....

GF: The pendao they call it.

GG: And what does that mean or....

GF: That's the real flag from the Holy Ghost. That's the Holy Ghost flag, because it has the pigeon, the pendao.

GG: And what about the other flag? Is there a special name for each?

GF: Well, the other ones is....well, this other one came from Portugal. My father sent for the other one from Portugal. Remember that? No, no, I don't think you remember that. In other words it's just like the Sacred Heart. It's almost like it.

GG: And what are the flags made of?

GF: Oh, out of brocaded taffeta. And it's lined.

GG: He sent away for them? To Portugal to get them.

GF: Yeah. Uh huh.

GG: What did they use before he got them or do you know?

MF: Well, they must have got some, but were old.

GF: They were old and were ripping. It rips from age.

GG: So was about 1925 or 1926 when he got the new ones or....

GF: Yeah, about that. About 1925. Maybe 1924.

GG: And what are they carrying now on top of....is that just flowers or....

GF: Yeah. That's the Santo Christo. This is the St. Pedro. This is the Santo Christo. Yeah, now because they have 'em like that. Now they have 'em in the house. They carrying statues over here, Felix. But they never had statues before. Remember. (Looking at pictures)

GF: Yeah, yeah. That's the Blessed Mother here. You see. That's right. This must be the Sacred Hearts. Oh yes! They only had two statues. The Blessed Mother and the Sacred Heart. That two statues. That's right, now I remember. Had the Blessed Mother, Sacred Heart, and the Santo Christo. But Santo Christo went in the house. Now it goes in the house. Before never went in the house. And then, but now they have the St. Anthony, St. Joseph, St. Martin.

(Taping stops them resumes)

GG: You know, you had talked before, when you ate dinners, the gravy, salmon gravy and things like this. Did you folks at that time eat rice with it or bread?

GF: No rice.

MF: That was something special. (Laughs)

GF: Was bread.

GG: So you ate the Portugese bread with your meals then. Also, what about did you eat vegetables at all or have gardens in those days?

GF: No.

GG: No vegetables at all? Not even the tomatoes way back then?

GF: Not even.

GG: Also, you talked about all the things you got ready for your wedding.

Did you call it a hope chest, or was there a Portuguese....

GF: We call it trousseau. Trousseau.

GG: Yeah, I wondered if that was the....and you said you didn't know why your parents didn't go to church.

GF: No.

GG: They never talked about it. But they made sure you folks, at least, went.

GF: We went, yeah. And make sure that we went to catechism and make sure that we went to Mass. And that's about all.

GG: Oh, also with the Holy Ghost Festival, now, you said the priest came and blessed everything at the hall. Did they have a Mass at all, or did people go to Communion at all, too, in conjunction with that? It was Sunday at church.

MF: No.

GF: Yeah. Going back to the Friday night, they would have the little boys going with the band, and pick up Father in the church. Because it so happens that always that happen to be first Friday. And Father use to have benediction on first Friday. So they would wait outside. The band would wait outside. And then....

MF: They would have torches. They were on poles. At night.

GF: And bring Father to the yard and bless the meat. Then he'd go his own way back home. And then on the Sunday....what was you saying about the Sunday?

GG: No, I just wondered if did people go to Mass Sunday morning on their own or did you go as a whole group because it was a part of the festival, or....

GF: No, there was people in church already, just like now, today. People go in church and then....

GG: They didn't have Mass at the hall as part of the whole festival?

GF: They had a Mass at the church, that's all.

GG: Yeah, right.

GF: They had---well, this was some time back now then. They use to have Mass at....

MF: Now they have the Mass right on the grounds now.

GF: Well, that's different, Felix, because no more the church now. We use to go to St. Agnes before to have the Mass. You know, the procession. But now, Father comes there and have the Mass. He has a place there fixed.

GG: Oh, he comes to the hall and gives the Mass there.

GF: He comes to the hall. But, you see, now the kids start walking from the park. They congregate there in the park. Down Mother Waldron Park. They dress up, get ready, and then.

MF: They march from there.

GF: They march from there to the grounds. And then they have Mass in the grounds. And then they'll march after the Mass. Then they'll march around, the band. Go to march with them.

MF: March around the streets.

GF: And then come back, and then they have the feast. Everybody would go to the Mass, because the first four pews from each side of the church was reserved for all the girls that was in the procession. And one time my mother was very, very sick. My mother had the--to me it was the stroke. And my father, he was such a religious man. He never went to Mass, as I said. So my mother had lost her mind completely. Just didn't know where she was, and she just kept losing weight, losing weight, and the doctor couldn't find what was the matter with her. So we tried all kinds of doctors. We tried all kinds. Hawaiian kahuna, and we tried Japanese. And still we didn't know what's the matter with Mama, you know.

MF: How she came like that?

GF: I was just married. I just married at that time, so my youngest sister, she was taking care of Mama. She was still home and my father was, he was working. Was so hard for him to work and Mama in that condition, too, see. So he had said, "If my wife just sits up in that bed--she don't have to walk--just sits up and recognize me, recognize the family, I'd walk under the Santo Christo statue now." You see, lot of promessa. "Promessa" means people had made a...

MF: Promise.

GF: A promise. They call it promessa. Maybe her little girl has a sore leg or a sore, sore stomach, whatever it is. They march under that statue and they make a promise. Said, "That if this thing goes away, I walk under that statue, around." So if we would see anybody walking under a statue, we knew that that's the promise they made.

So my father's promise was to walk barefooted under the Santo Christo--holding the flag. He was going to hold the flag. That's right. "I hold the flag from my house to the church barefooted." My father couldn't even walk in the house barefooted. As soon as he get up, the first thing he do is put on his shoes. He couldn't stand walking barefooted. And when he walk barefooted, he walked like he was walking on eggs. Because, you know, it was hurting him. So he'd put shoes. So you can imagine the agony that man was in there. And do you know my mother came up, came out of it? She recognized us. And she started to come slowly and slowly up. And gained her weight. Just you see it's a miracle. My mother was just dead. She weighed about 50 pounds, I think. She went down to skin and bones. We had to have a diaper on her, evenbathe her.

MF: And everybody was there waiting for her to die.

GF: Yeah, everybody waiting for her to die. And my shift was at night, you know. 'Cause I was just married. My sister would take care my mother day time, and I would stay at night. Stay all night with Mama. Because you don't know when she's going to die. She had the crucifix and everything because she wouldn't....(makes snorting noise). That's all she would do, you know. And nobody knew what was the matter. What was doing that. But then when she came out of that, this little hand, poor thing was like....

MF: Oh, she must have had a stroke.

GF: She must have gone in a coma or something. Her hand was like this. But this little hand, after she came out of, did so much, you would wonder how that woman ever did anything. She'd wash the dishes, put it down, put the dishes and wash with this hand. And everything was done with this little hand. Wash, and iron, and everything with that little hand she'd use. And she was fine after. And my mother loved maiden hair, you know. And she had beautiful maiden hair. And she have nice panties with the nice crochet lace on the panties. And my sister use to bring---say, "I'm going to bring out her panties. See if she recognize these." And she use to bring out her panties. See if she recognize these." And she use to bring out. Then she said, "Ma, you know what is this?" Won't talk. Then she used to go get the maiden hair and say, "Ma, you know this is your plant. Look how it's growing so beautiful." Wouldn't say nothing, one word. So my sister would cry and cry because she wouldn't recognize things that she loved. So when she started to talk, you know what she said? "Take this baby away from me. Take this baby away from me." She said had a baby there.

GG: Oh, for heaven's sake.

GF: "Take that baby away." Funny how when she started to talk. Then she got all right. Thank God. And she got all right after that. She started to gain her weight back, slowly, slowly, slowly, slowly, until she got all her weight back again. But nothing, no medication,

nothing, nothing. Just came right up.

GG: And so did your father walk barefoot all the...

GF: He walked. When he got to church....it was just to the church. And then whoever was going to hold the flag would hold from then on. The poor thing. And we took his shoes down to the church for him to put on. And we cried so much because, my father had did that because I know it was really torture for him doing that. But she got all right and they said, "Oh, Mr. Pacheco, he'll never do it. He say he's going to do it, but he'll never do it." And he said, "I'm going to show these people that I'm going to do it. I'm going to keep my promise." And he did. He did. He loved my mother. They use to have arguments, but, don't we all. Don't we all?

(Laughter)

GF: Sometimes I could kill 'em, too, my husband.

(Laughter)

GG: But just think how much more interesting it is because we argue.

GF: That's right.

GG: Okay, just sort of to wrap up. Do you have feelings you'd like to express about having grown up and lived in Kakaako?

GF: If I have to do it all over again, I'd rather live in Kakaako.

GG: Can you say why?

GF: Well, it was more of a homely atmosphere. Mostly homely. You know the people...

MF: At that time, when we was all residential. But not now.

GF: All residential. I would still go back to Kakaako. Even now.

GG: Even though it was hard?

GF: Yeah. Even though it was hard. But I loved that district. And you know, that's not only me saying that. I know quite a few people that say the same thing. I knew a lady that had so much property up at Kalihi, and then she sold her home, and she went to live up Kalihi. And she said she loves Kakaako. She said she'll never forget Kakaako. Her daughter---she passed away already. Her daughter living up Nuuanu. And she said, "My first love is Kakaako, even though I'm living Nuuanu. I love Kakaako." And you notice never mind who you talk to, I don't care who that lived in Kakaako, all say they love Kakaako.

GG: And can you, maybe, say a little bit more why? Was it because there was a sense of community or....

GF: Yeah, it was. Because we knew all the people. It was---we knew the place. I don't know, we'd sort of got a feeling that that's where we belong, because that's where we were from the beginning, and we don't think we could live anywhere else. And I still have that same feeling. I'd love to go back, you know, and then live. It's just that there's no way. But I'd love to go back there and live in Kakaako. When I pass there in Kakaako now, even now, and I've live in there---over 20 years I'm away from there. Even if I pass, I have that feeling that this is where I belong. (My roots are from Kakaako).

GG: That was the other thing I meant to ask you. When did you leave Kakaako?

GF: Oh, I left Kakaako in 1954, I think, eh.

MF: Where we move to?

GF: Pauoa. Naome Street.

GG: And why did you move away from...

GF: I had to move. You see, I'm very unfortunate. You see, when I moved from Kakaako, they sold the house.

END OF INTERVIEW.

REMEMBERING KAKA'AKO: 1910-1950

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